

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**No. 09-0773V**  
**(Not to be published<sup>1</sup>)**

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\*  
PATRICIA KAY LACKENS, \*  
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\*  
                    Petitioner, \*  
\*  
\*  
                    v. \*  
\*  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND \*  
HUMAN SERVICES \*  
\*  
\*  
                    Respondent. \*  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Filed: July 30, 2012  
  
Decision by Stipulation;  
Influenza Vaccination;  
Guillain-Barre Syndrome

**DECISION**

**HASTINGS, Special Master.**

This is an action seeking an award under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program<sup>2</sup> on account of an illness suffered by Patricia Lackens. On July 27, 2012, counsel for both parties filed a Stipulation, stipulating that a decision should be entered granting compensation. The parties have stipulated that petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> The applicable statutory provisions defining the Program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006 ed.). Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references will be to 42 U.S.C. (2006 ed.).

- A lump sum of \$140,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).
- A lump sum of \$31,632.58, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner’s counsel, F. John Caldwell, for attorney’s fees and costs.

Under the statute governing the Program, as well as the “Vaccine Rules” adopted by this court, the special master must now enter a decision endorsing that stipulation, and the clerk must enter judgment, in order to authorize payment of the award. See § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A) and (e)(3); § 300aa-13(a); Vaccine Rules 10(a), 11(a).<sup>3</sup>

I have reviewed the file, and based on that review, I conclude that the parties’ stipulation appears to be an appropriate one. Accordingly, my decision is that a Program award shall be made to petitioner in the amounts set forth above. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review of this Decision, the clerk shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

/s/ George L. Hastings, Jr.  
George L. Hastings, Jr.  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> The “Vaccine Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims” are found in Appendix B of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

PATRICIA KAY LACKENS,	)	
	)	<u>ECF</u>
Petitioner,	)	
v.	)	No. 09-773V
	)	Special Master
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	George L. Hastings
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Patricia Kay Lackens (“petitioner”) filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34, as amended (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to her receipt of an annual influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received the flu vaccine on November 13, 2008.<sup>1</sup>

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) that was caused-in-fact by receipt of the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she suffered residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action

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<sup>1</sup> Although the petition alleged that the flu vaccine was administered on November 20, 2008, medical records subsequently filed confirmed November 13, 2008, as the actual date of administration.

for damages as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner to suffer GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$140,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of \$31,632.58 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, F. John Caldwell, Jr., for attorney's fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e); and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in

accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(I), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in her individual capacity and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from the flu vaccine administered to her on or about November 13, 2008, as alleged in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on November 12, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-773V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a

decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's GBS, or any other injury, or that her current disabilities are sequelae of her alleged vaccine-related injuries.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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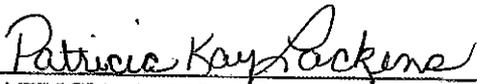
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Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONER:**

  
PATRICIA KAY LACKENS

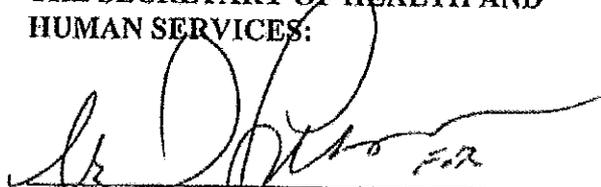
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Dated: 7-27-2012