

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 09-823V

Filed: January 10, 2012

FRUTO SOTO,)	
)	NOT TO BE PUBLISHED
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Stipulation; influenza (flu) vaccine;
)	pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
SECRETARY OF)	(PCV); Guillain-Barre Syndrome
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	(GBS)
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

Kevin B. Lynch, Scaffidi and Associates, New York, NY, for Petitioner;
Jennifer L. Reynaud, United States Dep't of Justice, Washington, D.C., for Respondent.

DECISION¹

LORD, Special Master.

On January 5, 2012, the parties in the above-captioned case filed a Stipulation memorializing their agreement as to the appropriate amount of compensation in this case. Petitioner, Fruto Soto, alleges that he suffered injuries related to his receipt of the influenza ("flu") and pneumococcal conjugate ("PCV") vaccines on January 7, 2009, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table, 42 C.F.R § 100.3(a). Specifically, Petitioner alleges that he sustained a vaccine-related injury diagnosed as Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") that was caused-in-fact by the flu and PCV vaccines. Petitioner further alleges that he experienced the residual effects of these injuries for more than six months. Petitioner seeks compensation related to this injury pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34.

Respondent denies that Petitioner's alleged GBS and residual effects were caused-in-fact by either the flu or PCV vaccine and denies that Petitioner experienced the residual effects of these injuries for more than six months. Respondent further denies that either the flu or PCV vaccine caused Petitioner any other injury or his current condition. Nonetheless, the parties have agreed informally to resolve this matter.

¹ In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to file a proper motion seeking redaction of medical or other information that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Redactions ordered by the special master, if any, will appear in the document as posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website.

The Court hereby ADOPTS the parties' said Stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Specifically, Petitioner is awarded:

- a. **A lump sum of \$185,000.00, in the form of a check payable to Petitioner**, which amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a); and
- b. **A lump sum of \$15,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's attorney, Scaffidi and Associates**, for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e). In compliance with General Order #9, Petitioner represents that all litigation costs were paid by his attorney and that he did not personally incur any costs in proceeding on the petition.

The Court thanks the parties for their cooperative efforts in resolving this matter. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the Clerk is directed to enter judgment accordingly.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Dee Lord
Dee Lord
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

FRUTO SOTO,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 09-823V
)	Special Master Lord
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	ECF
SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Fruto Soto (“petitioner”), filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the “Vaccine Program”).

The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the influenza (“flu”) and pneumococcal conjugate (“PCV”) vaccines, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. §100.3 (a).

2. Petitioner received his flu and PCV immunizations on January 7, 2009.

3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that he sustained a vaccine-related injury diagnosed as Guillain Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) that was caused-in-fact by the flu and PCV vaccines. He further alleges that he experienced the residual effects of his injuries for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner’s alleged GBS and residual effects were caused-in-

fact by the either the flu or PCV vaccine and denies that petitioner experienced the residual effects of these injuries for more than six months. Respondent further denies that either the flu or PCV vaccine caused petitioner any other injury or his current condition.

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 \$185,000.00 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 \$15,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Scaffidi and Associates, for attorneys' 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 petitioners in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any 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 by 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, 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 his individual capacity, and on behalf of his 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 and PCV vaccinations administered on January 7, 2009, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 30, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-823V.

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 either the flu or PCV vaccine caused petitioner to suffer GBS or any other injuries or that petitioner experienced the residual effects of these alleged injuries for more than six months.

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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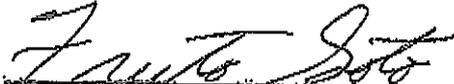
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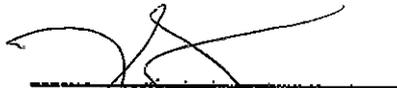
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Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:


FRUTO SOTO

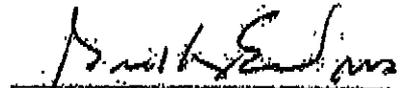
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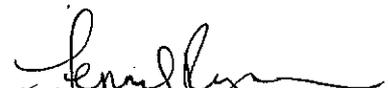
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Dated: January 5, 2012