

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 10-418 V

Filed: August 22, 2011

Not for Publication

EDWARD J. DLUGOLENSKI, *

*

Petitioner, *

*

*

v. *

*

Damages Decision based on Stipulation;
Flu Vaccine, GBS; Attorneys' Fees & Costs

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SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT *
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, *

*

*

Respondent. *

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*

Diana L. Stadelnikas, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.

Traci R. Patton, Washington, DC, for respondent.

MILLMAN, Special Master

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS¹

On August 5, 2011, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioner alleged that he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrom ("GBS") following an influenza immunization. Respondent denies that the petitioner's GBS was caused in fact by his flu vaccine. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Vaccine Rule 18(b) states that all decisions of the special masters will be made available to the public unless they contain trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged and confidential, or medical or similar information whose disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. When such a decision is filed, petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact such information prior to the document's disclosure. If the special master, upon review, agrees that the identified material fits within the banned categories listed above, the special master shall redact such material from public access.

The court hereby adopts the parties' stipulation and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Pursuant to the stipulation, the court awards:

- a. a lump sum of **\$85,000.00** in the form of a check made payable to petitioner; and
- b. a lump sum of \$20,000 in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner's law firm, Maglio, Christopher & Toale, for attorneys' fees and costs.

In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner represents that he incurred no costs in pursuing his petition.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 22, 2011

s/ Laura D. Millman
Laura D. Millman
Special Master

² Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

EDWARD DLUGOLENSKI,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 10-418V
Special Master Millman
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Edward Dlugolenski ("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 vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received an influenza immunization on October 27, 2009.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that on or around November 2, 2009, he experienced the first symptom or onset of Guillain-Barré Syndrome ("GBS"), which petitioner alleges was caused in fact by the influenza vaccine.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of petitioner as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that the influenza immunization caused-in-fact petitioner's GBS 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 \$85,000.00 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 \$20,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner's law firm, Maglio, Christopher & Toale, for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e). In accordance with General Order # 9, petitioner represents that all litigation costs were paid by petitioner's attorney and that petitioner did not personally incur any costs 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 himself and 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 influenza vaccination administered on October 27, 2009, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about July 1, 2010, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 10-418V.

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

Respectfully submitted,

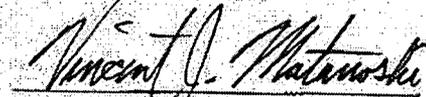
PETITIONER:


EDWARD G. DLUGOLEWSKI

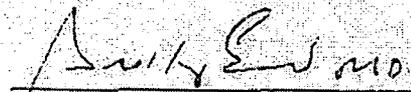
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Dated: 8-4-2011