

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 09-73 V

Filed: October 6, 2010

Not for Publication

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SHANNON NELSON, \*

Petitioner, \*

v. \*

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

Respondent. \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ronald C. Homer, Boston, MA, for petitioner.

Voris E. Johnson, Jr., Washington, DC, for respondent.

Damages decision based on stipulation; Menactra (Meningococcal), Human Papillomavirus (Gardasil), Varicella; Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”)

**MILLMAN, Special Master**

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On October 5, 2010, the parties filed the attached stipulation, in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioner alleged that she suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) following her Menactra, Gardasil and varicella vaccinations. Respondent denies that petitioner’s GBS was caused in fact by her Menactra, Gardasil and varicella vaccinations. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub.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 delete 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 delete such material from public access.

The court hereby adopts the parties' said stipulation, attached hereto, 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 **\$125,000.00** in the form of a check made payable to petitioner.

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.<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: October 6, 2010

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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**

_____	)	
SHANNON NELSON,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 09-73V (ECF)
	)	Special Master Millman
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Shannon Nelson (“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 sustained following petitioner’s receipt of meningococcal (Menactra), human papillomavirus (Gardasil), and varicella vaccines, which vaccines are contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. §100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received the Menactra, Gardasil, and varicella vaccines on June 21, 2007.
3. The vaccines were administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she subsequently suffered the injury Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”), which petitioner alleges was caused-in-fact by her receipt of the June 21, 2007, vaccinations. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of her injury 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 her condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's alleged injury and residual effects were caused-in-fact by the June 21, 2007, vaccinations, or that petitioner experienced the residual effects of her injury for more than six months.

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 payment:

A lump sum of \$125,000.00 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).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her 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. Sec. 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. sec. 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, 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).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, on behalf of herself and her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America 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 Menactra, Gardasil, and varicella vaccines administered on June 21, 2007, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about February 5, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-73V.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. 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.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States of America or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that petitioner's alleged injury and residual effects were caused-in-fact by the Menactra, Gardasil, and varicella vaccines, or that petitioner experienced the residual effects of her injury for more than six months.

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

END OF STIPULATION

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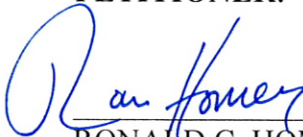
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Respectfully submitted,


**PETITIONER:**

  
SHANNON NELSON

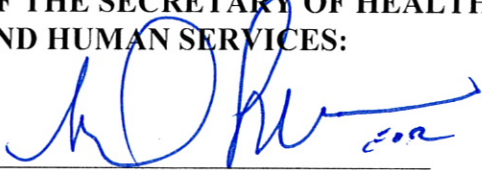
**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
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Dated: 10/5/2010