

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 10-772V
Filed: March 16, 2011**

JAMIE M. BALMES,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	
v.	*	Joint Stipulation; Tdap; Arm and
	*	Back Pain; Attorney Fees and
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Costs
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

Vowell, Special Master:

Jamie M. Balmes filed a petition ["Pet."] for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on November 8, 2010. Petitioner alleges that as a result of the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis ["Tdap"] vaccine she received on November 5, 2009, she suffered injury. See Pet at 1. Specifically, petitioner alleges that she suffered swelling and pain in her arm and pain in her back, and that she experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months. Stipulation, filed Mar. 15, 2011, at ¶4. Respondent denies that Tdap immunization is the cause of petitioner's alleged swelling, pain, and/or any other injury. Stipulation at ¶6.

Nevertheless, the parties have agreed to settle the case. On March 15, 2011, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms for compensation and for attorney fees and costs. Respondent agrees to pay petitioner:

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will delete such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2006).

- A lump sum payment of **\$80,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).
- A lump sum of **\$12,423.00**³ in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Jay A. Bansal, Esquire, for attorney fees and costs.⁴

The special master adopts the parties' stipulation attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁵

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Petitioner and her counsel satisfied General Order #9 with a statement in the Stipulation averring petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket litigation expenses, and by both signing the Stipulation.

⁵ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

6. Respondent denies that Tdap immunization is the cause of petitioner's alleged swelling, pain, and/or any other 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 **\$80,000.00** 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 **\$12,423.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Jay A. Bansal, Esq., for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e). In compliance with General Order #9, petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket litigation expenses 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, on behalf of herself and 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. § 300 aa-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 Tdap vaccination administered on or about November 5, 2009, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 8, 2010, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 10-772V.

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 Tdap vaccine caused petitioner's alleged arm and back injury and/or any other injury.

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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Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

 for Jamie Balmes
JAMIE M. BALMES through POA dated 2/23/11

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**


JAY A. BANSAL
LAW OFFICES OF JAY A. BANSAL
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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
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Dated: March 15, 2011

SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
County of Pima)

KNOWN ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, Jamie M. Balmes, the undersigned, hereby make, constitute and appoint Jay A. Bansal, of the LAW OFFICE OF JAY A. BANSAL, Tempe, Arizona, my true and lawful attorney-in-fact, for me and my name, place and stead, giving unto said Jay A. Bansal, power to act in my name, place and stead in anyway which I myself could do if I were personally present with the respect to the following matter:

To endorse, sign, release, execute and accept, in my name and stead all settlement proceeds, drafts, legal documents, checks and releases issued to me as a result of a vaccine injury that occurred to me on or about November 5, 2009.

My attorney-in-fact shall not be required to make or file any inventories, appraisals, accounts, or reports to any court or to give bond.

DATED this 23 day of February, 2011.

Jamie M. Balmes
Jamie M. Balmes

Signed and Sworn before me on this 23 day of February, 2011 by Jamie M. Balmes.

Gabriela M. Valenzuela
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 1-31-14

