

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 09-689V
Filed: February 1, 2011**

CRYSTAL GOODWIN,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	
v.	*	
	*	Joint Stipulation; Tdap;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	aggravation of asthma, bronchitis
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

Vowell, Special Master:

Crystal Goodwin filed a petition ["Pet."] for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on October 13, 2009. Petitioner alleges that as a result of the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis ["Tdap"] vaccine she received on April 27, 2007³, she suffered injury. Stipulation, filed January 31, 2011, at ¶ 2. Specifically, petitioner alleges that she suffered aggravation of her pre-existing asthma and recurrent episodes of bronchitis, which were caused in fact by the Tdap vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced residual effects of her injury for more than six months. Stipulation at ¶ 4. Respondent denies that petitioner's injuries were caused-in-fact by her Tdap vaccine. Stipulation at ¶ 6.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in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).

³ The parties have stipulated that "[p]etitioner received her Tdap immunization on or about April 27, 2007." Stipulation at ¶ 2. However, petitioner's petition and affidavit cite the date of administration as April 26, 2007. Pet. at ¶ 4; Affidavit, filed October 13, 2009, at ¶ 6.

Nevertheless, the parties have agreed to settle the case. On January 31, 2011, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to settle this case and describing the settlement terms. Respondent agrees to pay petitioner:

- A lump sum payment of **\$15,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

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.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
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No. 09-689V
SPECIAL MASTER
DENISE K. VOWELL

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. 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 a Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis ("Tdap") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received her Tdap immunization on or about April 27, 2007.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered one or more injuries, including aggravation of her pre-existing asthma and recurrent episodes of bronchitis as a consequence of her Tdap vaccination, and further alleges that she experienced 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 on her behalf as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner to suffer any injury, and further denies that her alleged current disabilities are a 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 payment:

A lump sum of \$15,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, representing 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. § 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 entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 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 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).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, 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. § 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 April 27, 2007, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about October 13, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-689V.

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 Childhood 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 or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner any injury or any of her current disabilities.

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

END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:


CRYSTAL GOODWIN

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**


CAROL L. GALLAGHER, ESQ.
GALLAGHER AND GALLAGHER LLC
822 Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 926-6450

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**


MARK W. ROGERS
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**


GEOFFREY EVANS, M.D.
Director, Division of
Vaccine Injury Compensation
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**


MICHAEL P. MILMOE
Senior Trial Counsel
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 616-4125

Dated: Jan 31, 2011