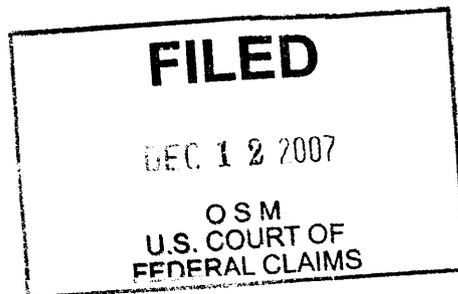


ORIGINAL

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: December 12, 2007



 IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES *
 RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM *
 DISORDER OR A SIMILAR *
 NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER *
 *
 VARIOUS PETITIONERS, *
 *
 v. *
 *
 SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND *
 HUMAN SERVICES, *
 *
 Respondent. *
 *

AUTISM MASTER FILE

ORDER CONCERNING MASTER EXHIBIT LISTS

The Petitioners' Steering Committee ("PSC") recently filed a "Petitioners' Master Medical Literature Exhibit List" into the Autism Master File. The PSC informed the court that any subsequently-filed expert reports would reference the numbers on the Master List. This Master List will avoid the problem of the same article being assigned multiple exhibit designations in the various expert witness reports filed in each of the autism-related cases.

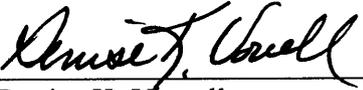
To avoid confusion with other exhibits, the court hereby designates each item contained on the Master List as "Petitioners' Master List - ___" ("PML-___"), followed by the number assigned to that item on the list. For example, the first article on the PSC Master List, a 2001 *Pediatrics* article by Neal Halsey, is designated as "PML - 1." Whenever an expert or party wishes to refer to that article, a reference can simply be made to "PML - 1."

Respondent is expected to file a similar master list of scientific and medical journal articles.¹ Items contained on respondent's master list shall be similarly designated as

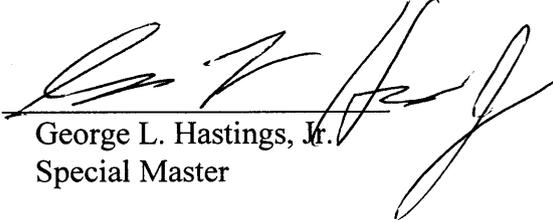
¹Understandably, some of the scientific and medical journal articles cited by petitioners will also be cited by respondent. To avoid unnecessary duplication of filings, **respondent is not required to file items that have been included already on Petitioners' Master List.**

“Respondent’s Master List - ___” (“RML - ___”), followed by the number assigned to that item on the list. Thus, the first article on the Respondent’s Master List will be designated as “RML - 1.” In respondent’s expert reports, the experts should, insofar as possible, use the exhibit designation in either the Petitioners’ Master List or the Respondent’s Master List.²

Thus, in the future, if a scientific or medical article has been listed in either the Petitioners’ or the Respondent’s Master List, when either party wishes to refer to that article in a memorandum, a brief, or during trial, such party should simply refer to the number of that article in either Master List. Similarly, when an expert refers to a scientific or medical article in an expert report, the expert may simply cite to that item in a Master List.


Denise K. Vowell
Special Master


Patricia Campbell-Smith
Special Master


George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

²It should be noted that the use of Master Lists in the manner described differs somewhat from the procedure for filing exhibits that is outlined in Section IX of the Guidelines for Practice Under The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. (The current version of the Guidelines is dated November 2004 and may be found at www.uscfc.uscourts.gov.) The extremely large number of scientific and medical journal articles being filed in the Omnibus Autism Proceeding requires this flexibility. However, in accordance with the Guidelines, in each individual test case, **all documents, such as affidavits and expert reports, that are not included in these Master Lists shall continue to be assigned consecutive exhibit numbers (or letters, by respondent).**