In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 12-162V Filed: September 23, 2013 Not for Publication

LUCY SZRAMA, as Administrator and
Legal Representative of the Estate of
BERNARD L. SZRAMA,

Petitioner,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Damages decision based on stipulation; Guillain-Barré Syndrome; chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy; death; flu vaccine

Ramon Rodriguez, III, Richmond, VA, for petitioner. Glenn A. MacLeod, Washington, DC, for respondent.

MILLMAN, Special Master

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 23, 2013, the parties filed the attached stipulation in which they agreed to settle this case and described the settlement terms. Petitioner alleges that Bernard's death on July 25, 2010 resulted from Guillain-Barré Syndrome ("GBS") and/or chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy ("CIDP"), which injury was caused by his August 27, 2009 receipt

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the special master's action in this case, the special master intends to post this unpublished decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub.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 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.

of trivalent influenza ("flu") vaccine. Respondent denies that flu vaccine caused Bernard's GBS and/or CIDP or his death, and further denies that Bernard's death on July 25, 2010 was the sequelae of a vaccine-related injury. Nonetheless, the parties agreed to resolve this matter informally.

The undersigned finds the terms of the stipulation to be reasonable. 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 lump sum of \$175,000.00, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. \$300aa-15(a) (2012). The award shall be in the form of a check for \$175,000.00 made payable to petitioner, as Administrator and Legal Representative of the Estate of Bernard L. Szrama, deceased.

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: September 23, 2013

<u>s/ Laura D. Millman</u>Laura D. MillmanSpecial Master

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

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

- 1. Petitioner, Lucy Szrama, as Administrator and Legal Representative of the Estate of Bernard L. Szrama ("Bernard"), deceased, 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 Bernard's receipt of the trivalent influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
 - 2. Bernard received a flu vaccination on or about August 27, 2009.
 - 3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
- 4. Petitioner claims that Bernard's death on July 25, 2010, resulted from Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") and/or chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy ("CIDP"), which injury was caused by the flu immunization he received on or about August 27, 2009.

- 5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on Bernard's behalf as a result of his alleged vaccine injury and death.
- 6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused Bernard's GBS and/or CIDP or his death, and further denies that Bernard's death on July 25, 2010 was the 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 \$175,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, as Administrator and Legal Representative of the Estate of Bernard L. Szrama, deceased, which 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. Payment 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.

- 11. Petitioner represents that she presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as Administrator and Legal Representative of Bernard L. Szrama's estate under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 12. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and as Administrator and Legal Representative of the Estate of Bernard L. Szrama, deceased, and on behalf of Bernard's estate and his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and 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 United States 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 Bernard L. Szrama resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on or about August 27, 2009, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about March 9, 2012, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 12-162V.
- 13. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States 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.
- 14. 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 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.

- 15. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccination caused Bernard to suffer GBS, CIDP, or any other illness or that it contributed in any way to his death.
- 16. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns, as Administrator and Legal Representative of the Estate of Bernard L. Szrama.

END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR

PETITIONER:

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND

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Dated: 9/2

Dated: __