

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

No. 09-782V  
Filed: December 25, 2010  
Unpublished

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KAREN DEGIORGIO,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Decision on stipulation; Influenza
	*	vaccine; Guillain-Barré Syndrome,
v.	*	GBS
	*	
SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT	*	
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	

\*\*\*\*\*

**DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On December 23, 2010, the parties to the above-captioned case filed a Stipulation memorializing their agreement as to the appropriate amount of compensation in this case. Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome, GBS, as a consequence of the influenza vaccine she received on November 4, 2008. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of this injury for more than six months. Respondent denies that the influenza vaccine caused petitioner’s alleged injuries, denies that petitioner’s alleged injuries persisted more than six months, and denies petitioner’s current disabilities are sequelae of the alleged injuries. Nonetheless, the parties agreed informally to resolve this matter.

The court hereby **ADOPTS** the parties’ said Stipulation, attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. **Specifically, petitioner is awarded a lump sum of \$51,701.80 in the form of a check payable to petitioner; petitioner is also awarded \$14,299.11 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner’s attorney of record.** See Stipulation, ¶ 8, filed December 23, 2010 (complying with General Order #9, petitioner did not personally incur out-of-pocket expenses in proceeding on this Petition).

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the website for the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). **As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the entire decision will be available to the public. Id. Any motion for redaction must be filed by no later than fourteen (14) days after filing date of this filing.** Further, consistent with the statutory requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision, order, ruling, etc.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment accordingly.<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**<sup>3</sup>

s/ Gary J. Golkiewicz  
Gary J. Golkiewicz  
Special Master

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

<sup>3</sup> This document constitutes a final “decision” in this case pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A). Unless a motion for review of this decision is filed within 30 days, the Clerk of the Court shall enter judgment in accord with this decision.

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

KAREN DEGIORGIO,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 09-782V
	)	Special Master Golkiewicz
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	)	ECF
HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Karen DeGiorgio (“Karen”), 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 the trivalent influenza (“flu”) vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received her flu immunization on November 4, 2008.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barre syndrome (“GBS”), which was caused or triggered by her flu vaccination. Petitioner further alleges that she has experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months from the date of vaccination.
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 flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged injuries, denies that petitioner's alleged injuries persisted more than six months from the date of vaccination, and denies that her current disabilities are sequelae of the alleged injuries.

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 \$51,701.80 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 \$14,299.11 in the form of a check payable to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Diana L. Stadelnikas, Esq., for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e). In compliance with General Order #9, petitioner has incurred no out-of-pocket 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, 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, 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 flu vaccination administered on November 4, 2008, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 13, 2009, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 09-782V.

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 flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged injuries, that petitioner's alleged injuries persisted more than six months from the date of vaccination, or that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of her alleged injuries.

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:**

  
KAREN DEGIORGIO

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

  
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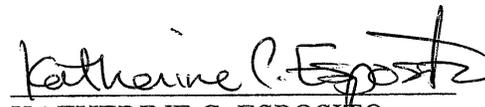
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Dated: 12/23/10