

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 08-908V

Filed: March 23, 2011

Not To Be Published

PATRICK UKAEGBU, a minor, by his
parents and natural guardians, NDU
UKAEGBU and MGBEDINIHU N.
UKAEGBU,

Petitioners,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

Petitioners' Motion for a Decision
Dismissing their Petition; Insufficient Proof
of Causation; Vaccine Act Entitlement;
Denial Without Hearing

DECISION¹

On December 18, 2008, petitioners filed a Petition For Vaccine Compensation in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("the Program").² The petition alleges that various vaccinations injured Patrick. The information in the record, however, does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

On March 17, 2011, petitioners filed a Motion for a Decision dismissing their Petition. Petitioners assert in their Motion that under the current applicable law they will be unable to

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal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), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, such material will be deleted from public access.

² The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (hereinafter "Vaccine Act" or "the Act"). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

demonstrate entitlement to compensation in the Program. Petitioners' Motion at 1. Accordingly, petitioners request that the undersigned dismiss the above-captioned petition. Id.

To receive compensation under the Program, petitioners must prove either 1) that Patrick suffered a "Table Injury" – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of his vaccinations, or 2) that Patrick suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. See §§ 300aa-13(a)(1)(A) and 300aa-11(c)(1). An examination of the record did not uncover any evidence that Patrick suffered a "Table Injury." Further, the record does not contain a medical expert's opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that Patrick's alleged injury was vaccine-caused.

Under the Act, a petitioner may not be given a Program award based solely on the petitioner's claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 300aa-13(a)(1). In this case, because there are no medical records supporting petitioners' claim, a medical opinion must be offered in support. Petitioners, however, have offered no such opinion.

Accordingly, it is clear from the record in this case that petitioners have failed to demonstrate either that Patrick suffered a "Table Injury" or that his injuries were "actually caused" by a vaccination. **Thus, this case is dismissed for insufficient proof. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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

³ The undersigned notes that if petitioner elects to file a Petition for Fees and Costs pursuant to § 300aa-15(e), based on current case law petitioner will need to first establish proof of vaccination and the timely filing of their Petition for Vaccine Compensation, see § 300aa-16(a)(2) and 16(b), prior to any award for attorneys' fees and costs being granted. See Brice v. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 358 F.3d 865, 869 (2004), citing Martin v. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 62 F.3d 1403, 1406 (1995).