



June 23, 2023

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Johnson:

Thank you for your April 20, 2023, letter regarding the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP or the Program). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Secretary and Administrator Johnson.

More than 676 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the United States, and alleged injuries remain rare. Individuals who believe that they may have been injured by a COVID-19 vaccine may file a CICP claim in order to be considered for compensation. As of June 1, 2023, 8,372 claims alleging injury related to COVID-19 vaccines have been filed with CICP. HRSA maintains detailed information regarding CICP claims on its website, which also includes user-friendly resources explaining how the Program works, the declarations that have been issued for medical countermeasures covered by the CICP, who may be eligible to file a claim, and how to request benefits, among other information.¹

With respect to claims filed, CICP is committed to ensuring that all requesters have the opportunity to have their full circumstances reviewed. The criteria for compensation under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act require that the CICP determine the injury sustained was the direct result of the administration or use of a covered countermeasure. The PREP Act and associated declarations define covered countermeasures, which can include vaccines, medications, devices, or other items used to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat, or cure a pandemic or epidemic or to limit the harm such pandemic or epidemic might otherwise cause.² The CICP may make a determination that an injury was the direct result of administration or use of a covered countermeasure based only on compelling, reliable, valid, medical, and scientific evidence, as required by statute.³

Because the statutory evidence standard for eligibility for compensation is high, it is important for CICP to have the most complete and detailed medical records from requesters, so as to provide them with the opportunity for a full analysis of whether their claim meets this standard.

¹ <https://www.hrsa.gov/cicp/cicp-data>

² 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d(i)(1) and (7).

³ 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6e(b)(4) and (5)(A).

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The Program actively works with requesters to ensure that all required records are submitted to the Program to help ensure a robust review, including by providing requesters with ample time to provide these materials.

The PREP Act requires that all other coverage such as health insurance or workers' compensation pay first, with the CICP as the payer of last resort. Additionally, the types of expenses eligible for compensation under the CICP are limited to out-of-pocket medical expenses, a percentage of lost employment income, and a death benefit for certain survivors. Individuals found medically eligible for compensation are required by statute to submit documentation to support their request for benefits.

Thank you again for your interest in the CICP. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at (202) 690-7627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Anne Egorin".

Melanie Anne Egorin, PhD
Assistant Secretary for Legislation