



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services
Administration

Rockville, MD 20857
Healthcare Systems Bureau

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

In accordance with the provisions of the charter for the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV), and pursuant to its obligations under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 as amended (the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-19), we respectfully submit for your consideration a recommendation regarding the implementation of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP or Program).

Background

At the March 2018 quarterly ACCV meeting, the ACCV discussed the formation of a workgroup to examine prior ACCV recommendations to the Secretary and to present consolidated, updated, or new recommendations to the ACCV for consideration, deliberation, and recommendation. This workgroup held monthly meetings by telephone beginning in May 2018. The chair of this workgroup is the ACCV parent representative. Other ACCV members on the workgroup include two health care professional representatives, the attorney representing vaccine manufacturers, the attorney representing petitioners, and the non-affiliated attorney. Representatives from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Division of Injury Compensation Programs, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel, the Department of Justice's Vaccine Litigation Section, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Immunization Safety Office, and the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Vaccines Research and Review participate in the workgroup as consultants.

The workgroup discussed ways to increase the public's awareness of the Program and methods to engage VICP stakeholders, specifically the public and petitioners, in the VICP's improvement and implementation. The workgroup agreed that a recommended first step in increasing stakeholder feedback would be for the Program to develop an exit questionnaire that would be provided to prospective petitioners following the resolution of their case. This exit questionnaire would give petitioners a mechanism to provide feedback directly to the VICP, in order to evaluate petitioners' experience with the VICP claims process, and help the Program and the ACCV determine potential areas for improvement. The full ACCV unanimously approved and adopted the workgroup's recommendation at the March 8, 2019 ACCV meeting.

Recommendation:

“The ACCV recommends the development of an exit questionnaire to determine petitioners’ opinions related to their experiences with the Program. The VICP will develop the questionnaire which is to be routinely administered to prospective petitioners whose petitions have been adjudicated.”

Sincerely,

/s/

Karlen Beth Luthy
Chair, ACCV

/s/

Herman Cody Meissner
Co-Chair, ACCV