

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

IN RE: SULZER HIP PROSTHESIS)	Civil Action No.: 01-CV-9000
AND KNEE PROSTHESIS PRODUCT)	
LIABILITY LITIGATION)	ALL CASES
)	
<i>This document relates to:</i>)	(MDL No. 1401)
<i>Elizabeth Bradley</i>)	
)	Judge Kathleen M. O'Malley

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MASTER DETERMINATION

Class Member Elizabeth Bradley, by and through her attorney Chris Johns, Esq. (“Appellant”), appealed the decision of the Claims Administrator (“Appellee”) in rendering a Final Determination dated January 21, 2004 on Appellant’s claim for Extraordinary Injury Fund (“EIF”) benefits from the Sulzer Settlement Trust.

Appellant appealed the decision of the Appellee, and contends that Appellee erred in his decision to deny Appellant’s claim for EIF Matrix Level I benefits.

The factual findings of this matter are as follows:

1. Appellant submitted a claim for EIF Matrix Level I benefits.
2. Appellant seeks EIF Matrix Level I benefits for a revision surgery allegedly indicated except for a medical condition.
3. Appellee issued Preliminary and Final Determinations that Appellant was not eligible for EIF Matrix Level I benefits.

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After a thorough review of the appeal submitted by the Appellant and the response submitted by the Appellee, the Special Master finds as follows:

The Special Master shall review Final Determinations only for an abuse of discretion by the Appellee, Claims Administrator.

By Order of the United States District Court, the Claims Administrator shall evaluate claims for EIF benefits according to the policies and procedures set forth in Claims Administrator Procedure ("CAP") 27.

Annex IV of the Settlement Agreement provides that Class Members may apply for and receive benefits under Matrix Level I if "Affected Product Revision Surgery would be indicated but for a medical condition."

The Special Master could find no evidence that an APRS was indicated for Appellant, or that there is a medical condition preventing such a surgery. Dr. Ansari's office note from July 9, 2001 states "She continues to complain of discomfort in the right knee. Even though she was recommended to undergo a repeat orthopedic surgery, she had deferred it and would rather continue the medications." None of Dr. Choung's records indicate that revision of her right hip is recommended, rather they relate her pain to heterotopic ossification.

Appellant did not include a copy of her Physician Declaration Form with her appeal so the Special Master cannot consider that document. However, a completed Physician Declaration Form, in and of itself, would not be sufficient evidence to prove Appellant's claim, and the medical records provided to the Special Master do not support her claim.

Appellee, Claims Administrator, did not abuse his discretion in denying Appellant's claim for Matrix Level I benefits because there is no evidence that a revision surgery was indicated but for a medical condition.

By order of the Special Master, Appellee's Final Determination of ineligibility for Appellant's EIF Matrix Level I claim is hereby AFFIRMED.

Appellant and Appellee have fifteen days from the date of this decision to submit a fact or principle they believe the Special Master did not consider in rendering a decision. **Such submissions may not be more than three pages in length. Exhibits are not to be attached to any such submission and will not be considered. Submissions are to be mailed to the following address:**

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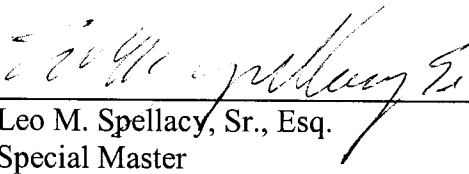
Leo M. Spellacy, Sr., Esq.
Special Master to the Sulzer Settlement Trust
c/o Liaison Counsel
1600 Midland Building
101 Prospect Avenue West
Cleveland, OH 44115

APR 20 2004

If no response is received (postmarked) by _____, then the Special Master's Decision is final and may not be further contested or appealed.

APR 05 2004

Date


Leo M. Spellacy, Sr., Esq.
Special Master