

(3) there is appropriate post-inoculation medical surveillance that includes an evaluation of adverse health effects that may reasonably appear to be due to such vaccine and prompt referral of, or the provision of appropriate information to, any individual requiring health care as a result of such adverse health event.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title II, §261, as added Pub. L. 108–20, §2, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 638.)

### § 239a. Determination of eligibility and benefits

#### (a) In general

The Secretary shall establish procedures for determining, as applicable with respect to an individual—

(1) whether the individual is an eligible individual;

(2) whether an eligible individual has sustained a covered injury or injuries for which medical benefits or compensation may be available under sections 239c and 239d of this title, and the amount of such benefits or compensation; and

(3) whether the covered injury or injuries of an eligible individual caused the individual's death for purposes of benefits under section 239e of this title.

#### (b) Covered individuals

The Secretary may accept a certification, by a Federal, State, or local government entity or private health care entity participating in the administration of covered countermeasures under the Declaration, that an individual is a covered individual.

#### (c) Criteria for reimbursement

##### (1) Injuries specified in injury table

In any case where an injury or other adverse effect specified in the injury table established under section 239b of this title as a known effect of a vaccine manifests in an individual within the time period specified in such table, such injury or other effect shall be presumed to have resulted from administration of such vaccine.

##### (2) Other determinations

In making determinations other than those described in paragraph (1) as to the causation or severity of an injury, the Secretary shall employ a preponderance of the evidence standard and take into consideration all relevant medical and scientific evidence presented for consideration, and may obtain and consider the views of qualified medical experts.

#### (d) Deadline for filing request

The Secretary shall not consider any request for a benefit under this part with respect to an individual, unless—

(1) in the case of a request based on the administration of the vaccine to the individual, the individual files with the Secretary an initial request for benefits or compensation under this part not later than one year after the date of administration of the vaccine; or

(2) in the case of a request based on accidental vaccinia inoculation, the individual files with the Secretary an initial request for bene-

fits or compensation under this part not later than two years after the date of the first symptom or manifestation of onset of the adverse effect.

#### (e) Structured settlements at Secretary's option

In any case in which there is a reasonable likelihood that compensation or payment under section 239c, 239d, or 239e(b) of this title will be required for a period in excess of one year from the date an individual is determined eligible for such compensation or payment, the Secretary shall have the discretion to make a lump-sum payment, purchase an annuity or medical insurance policy, or execute an appropriate structured settlement agreement, provided that such payment, annuity, policy, or agreement is actuarially determined to have a value equal to the present value of the projected total amount of benefits or compensation that the individual is eligible to receive under such section or sections.

#### (f) Review of determination

##### (1) Secretary's review authority

The Secretary may review a determination under this section at any time on the Secretary's own motion or on application, and may affirm, vacate, or modify such determination in any manner the Secretary deems appropriate. The Secretary shall develop a process by which an individual may file a request for reconsideration of any determination made by the Secretary under this section.

##### (2) Judicial and administrative review

No court of the United States, or of any State, District, territory or possession thereof, shall have subject matter jurisdiction to review, whether by mandamus or otherwise, any action by the Secretary under this section. No officer or employee of the United States shall review any action by the Secretary under this section (unless the President specifically directs otherwise).

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title II, §262, as added Pub. L. 108–20, §2, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 640.)

### § 239b. Smallpox vaccine injury table

#### (a)<sup>1</sup> Smallpox vaccine injury table

##### (1) Establishment required

The Secretary shall establish by interim final regulation a table identifying adverse effects (including injuries, disabilities, illnesses, conditions, and deaths) that shall be presumed to result from the administration of (or exposure to) a smallpox vaccine, and the time period in which the first symptom or manifestation of onset of each such adverse effect must manifest in order for such presumption to apply.

##### (2) Amendments

The Secretary may by regulation amend the table established under paragraph (1). An amendment to the table takes effect on the date of the promulgation of the final rule that makes the amendment, and applies to all re-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. No subsec. (b) has been enacted.