

12 July 2022

Paul Jones
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Tēnā koe Paul,

Your Official Information Act request, reference H202208105:

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2022 requesting information relating to Depo-Provera. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested the following:

*“... the past five years would you please provide the following statistics
i) The total number of doses administered each year.
ii) The total number of unique patients who received the drug each year.”*

The Ministry is unable to provide the count of unique patients who received Depo-Provera (Medroxyprogesterone acetate) as we are unable to accurately capture the number of people who are dispensed these items. Due to the way intra uterine devices (IUDs) and other long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) are distributed, the Ministry is unable to count patients who have received one as they are ordered in bulk by practitioners, and then distributed without the practitioner reporting on who receives them.

Therefore, the Ministry is providing the total number of Depo-Provera items reported to us. We have also provided the order type in the table below, showing whether we have a record that Depo-Provera was provided to an individual, or as part of a bulk supply.

Please note the following when considering this data:

- The table is a count of items and not people.
- Where the National Health Index (NHI) number is not reported, or the dispensing is a bulk claim to be distributed, no patient demographic details are available (as these are not reported to the Ministry).
- Order Type 1 'Prescription': An order written for a patient to pick up from a community pharmacy for their own use.
- Order Type 3 'Practitioner's Supply Order': A written order made by a prescriber for the funded supply of pharmaceuticals for emergency use, teaching and demonstration purposes and for provision to certain patient groups where an individual prescription is not practicable.
- Order Type 4 'Bulk Supply Order': An order made by a private hospital to a pharmacy to obtain supplies of medicines for the hospital's patients.

Table 1: A count of Depo-Provera injections claimed for, by order type, NHI number reporting status, and calendar year of dispensing for the years 2017 to 2021.

Order Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
1: Prescription	3,764	4,022	3,509	3,782	3,852	18,929
<i>NHI number not reported</i>	62	36	41	36	57	232
<i>NHI number reported</i>	3,702	3,986	3,468	3,746	3,795	18,697
3: Practitioner's supply order	149,251	153,208	152,350	142,050	132,207	729,066
4: Bulk supply order	226	231	193	254	158	1,062
Total	153,241	157,461	156,052	146,086	136,217	749,057

This information is extracted from the Ministry's Pharmaceutical Collection which is a live dataset, whilst the Pharmaceutical Data Web Tool is a static extract. Comparing the two extracts may result in different figures. The Pharmaceutical Collection only counts publicly funded, community-dispensed pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Cancer Treatments (PCT); It does not count non-PCT hospital dispensings, drugs not funded by Pharmac, or prescriptions that were never dispensed.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Te Whatu Ora at: h.nzgovernmentservices@health.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Te Whatu Ora's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director General
 Data and Digital**