

11 February 2015

Mr Shane Le Brun
Email to: fyi-request-2393-f73c42ec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Le Brun

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 13 January 2015 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) (fyi-request-2393-f73c42ec@requests.fyi.org.nz)

- 1. Since 2004 how many claims have been accepted for cover and treatment of CRPS following an injury?*
- 2. Since 2004 how many claims have been declined for cover and treatment of CRPS following an injury?*
- 3. Since 2004 how many of the accepted claims for CRPS no longer receive weekly loss of earnings payments?*
- 4. Of those who had accepted CRPS claims, how many are receiving partial earning related compensation payments because they are working part-time?*
- 5. Of those who have had a stop to their weekly loss of earnings entitlements, how many had their payments stopped because they could successfully work for the ACC threshold of vocational rehabilitation at the time of the decision, which under current legislation is 30 hours (but was historically 35 hours)?*
- 6. Of those whose CRPS claim has been accepted but are no longer receiving weekly compensation, what was the average length of time the claimants were receiving weekly compensation?*

Sativex prescriptions (fyi-request-2389-1d03cd90@requests.fyi.org.nz)

- 7. How many applications have been made to ACC since 2008 for Sativex to be prescribed?*
- 8. How many of these applications have been approved?*
- 9. How many patients are funded long-term or for the foreseeable future?*
- 10. What is the average annual cost of Sativex prescriptions for those patients on long term prescriptions*
- 11. What are the conditions ACC has funded Sativex for?*

Claims relating to CRPS

ACC is not able to provide you the total number of accepted and declined claims with a complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) diagnosis. This is because ACC's system counts only the initial diagnosis recorded on the ACC45 (which providers complete to register a claim) to calculate the number of claims with a specific diagnosis.

Table 1 provides the information about CRPS related claims that ACC can identify from its system. Please note the following limitations regarding the data in the table.

- It is unusual for CRPS to be the initial diagnosis on an ACC45. CRPS is generally an additional diagnosis that is made after a claim is accepted for cover by ACC. The information about this diagnosis is therefore often only included on a client's individual claim file. As a result, there will be clients with accepted cover for CRPS who are receiving associated services and support from ACC, but who are not included in the table below.
- To protect the privacy of individuals ACC does not disclose totals which are less than four. In the table below these are recorded as <4.

Table 1: Identified accepted and declined claims with a CRPS diagnosis

Date claim registered	Claim Count	
Financial Year	Accepted	Declined
2003/04	32	
2004/05	14	
2005/06	19	
2006/07	15	
2007/08	28	<4
2008/09	30	<4
2009/10	21	
2010/11	24	
2011/12	45	<4
2012/13	37	
2013/14	35	<4

ACC cannot provide robust answers to your questions 3 to 6 as ACC cannot identify all claims which have CRPS as one of the diagnoses covered for ACC support.

ACC declines your request in questions 1 to 6 because the information cannot be found. This decision complies with section 18(e) of the Act.

Sativex

Regrettably ACC is unable to provide you with the information you have requested about Sativex prescriptions. This information is not provided as it would be inappropriate to do so as there is a need to protect individual's privacy (including that of people who have died). ACC has been unable to identify why the release of this information would be in the public interest. Also, some of the information cannot be found because it only exists on individual claim files, rather than in ACC's system which can be electronically searched. This decision complies with section 9(2)(a) and section 18 (e) of the Act.

We have responded below to each question about Sativex to explain the reason that we have not provided the information requested. However, to assist you get a sense of the numbers involved an estimate is supplied where possible. Again to protect the privacy of individuals ACC has not disclosed an actual number when the total is less than four.

- In ACC's system, data is not coded to the degree of detail that allows us to calculate an accurate total of how many applications have been made for Sativex since 2008. However, we estimate it is around ten.
- ACC data is not coded to the degree of detail that allows an accurate count of the applications approved but we estimate it is less than four.
- To protect the privacy of individuals ACC cannot provide information on how many patients are funded long-term for Sativex or for the foreseeable future. It is less than four.
- ACC cannot provide the average annual cost of Sativex prescriptions, as ACC data is not coded to the degree of detail that allows us to specifically identify the cost of Sativex prescriptions.
- To protect the privacy of individuals ACC cannot provide information on the conditions for which ACC has funded Sativex. I can advise that ACC follows the guidance of MedSafe in considering requests for funding Sativex. The Sativex MedSafe data sheet can be accessed at www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/datasheet.htm.

ACC is happy to answer your questions

If you have any questions about the information provided, we will be happy to work with you to resolve these. We can be contacted via email at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with ACC's response. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Government Services