

18 March 2016

Colleen Morgan
Via email: fyi-request-3564-8046074a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Morgan

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 22 February 2016.

Your request

You asked for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Could you please provide the percentage of treatment injury claims made out of all claims submitted for all periods commencing 2005 up to 2015 and broken down into the following approved treatment providers? Please provide the treatment injury data as per the treatment contexts table you outlined in your response.

Our approach

Treatment injury data became available from 1 July 2005 when the relevant Accident Compensation Act 2001 provisions came into effect. The change from “medical misadventure” to “treatment injury” is more aligned with ACC’s no fault scheme.

As a consequence, we do not collect data pertaining to a treating provider’s profession. We can though provide data with respect to treatment injury contexts.

A *treatment injury context* is the specialty or healthcare area under which treatment was provided.

Notably, there are often multiple professional disciplines working within a single treatment context. For example, within the maternity context, it is possible to have obstetricians and gynaecologists, midwives and nurses. The same can be said for most other treatment contexts.

Likewise, a single professional discipline can work across multiple contexts. For instance, nurses work across a range of contexts, including but not limited to nursing, maternity, general surgery, emergency medicine and general practice.

We include below the treatment contexts table referred to in this, your latest, request - and provided in our previous response to you dated 19 February 2016.

Treatment contexts defined within treatment injury data

Treatment Context
Acupuncture
Ambulance
Anaesthesia
Appearance Medicine
Arterial Surgery

Cardiology
Cardiothoracic
Chiropractor
Dental
Dermatology
Dialysis
Ear, Nose And Throat (Ent)
Emergency Medicine
Equipment
General Medicine
General Practice
General Surgery
Gynaecology
Haematology
Laboratory
Maternity
Neurology
Neurosurgery
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Oncology
Ophthalmology
Orthopaedics
Osteopathy
Other
Paediatric Medicine
Paediatric Surgical
Pathology
Pharmacy
Phlebotomy
Physiotherapy
Plastic And Burns
Podiatry
Psychiatry
Radiology
Radiotherapy
Rehabilitation
Rheumatology
Screening
Transplant Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery

Our response

The treatment injury data set out in our response was extracted on 24 February 2016 (for claims with a date of lodgement with ACC from 1 July 2005).

From 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2015, ACC made cover decisions for 84,116 treatment injury claims. Of those treatment injury claims 51,899 (61.7%) were accepted; while 32,217 (38.3%) were declined.

The following table shows the percentage breakdown of the 51,899 accepted claims by the treatment injury context under which the injury occurred.

Percentage of accepted treatment injury claims decided between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2015, by treatment context	
Treatment Context	Percentage of total accepted treatment injury claims
Acupuncture	<0.1%
Ambulance	<0.1%
Anaesthesia	3.0%
Appearance Medicine	0.1%
Arterial Surgery	<0.1%
Cardiology	1.8%
Cardiothoracic	2.0%
Chiropractor	0.5%
Dental	4.3%
Dermatology	0.5%
Dialysis	<0.1%
Ear, Nose And Throat (Ent)	1.5%
Emergency Medicine	2.0%
Equipment	<0.1%
General Medicine	4.3%
General Practice	15.8%
General Surgery	13.7%
Gynaecology	5.4%
Haematology	0.3%
Laboratory	1.0%
Maternity	4.7%
Neurology	0.2%
Neurosurgery	0.8%
Nursing	4.3%
Occupational Therapy	<0.1%
Oncology	1.1%
Ophthalmology	1.8%
Orthopaedics	17.5%
Osteopathy	<0.1%
Other	0.1%
Paediatric Medicine	0.5%
Paediatric Surgical	0.2%
Pathology	0.1%
Pharmacy	0.1%
Phlebotomy	0.4%
Physiotherapy	1.3%
Plastic And Burns	2.6%
Podiatry	0.4%
Psychiatry	0.2%
Radiology	2.0%
Radiotherapy	0.4%
Rehabilitation	<0.1%
Rheumatology	0.2%

Screening	0.1%
Transplant Surgery	<0.1%
Urology	3.6%
Vascular Surgery	1.2%
Not A Treatment Injury	<0.1%
Total	100.0%

Claim lodgement rates

Claim lodgement rates are dependent on several factors. These include: where patients reside, the health status of the population, the types of available facilities and the claiming culture (that is, familiarity of health service providers or clients in recognising and/or lodging treatment injury claims). This means that the number of claims accepted cannot be taken as an accurate indication of the occurrence of treatment injuries or the quality of care.

Queries or concerns

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Services, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our decisions regarding your request. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143*.

Yours sincerely



Janine McGruddy
Senior Advisor