



7 June 2024

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-032532

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am after ACC data/information regarding typical recovery timeframes for common musculoskeletal injuries. E.g. ankle sprain, recovery timeframe 4 to 6 weeks.

The information we are able to provide is attached

ACC doesn't systematically collect recovery timeframe information for musculoskeletal injuries. Instead, we are providing average weekly compensation days for musculoskeletal injury claims. However, as there are many factors which influence weekly compensation duration this dataset is considered to be indicative only.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public

ACC may decide to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi

Christopher Johnston
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Description:

Average recovery timeframes for common musculoskeletal injuries.

Response:

- The data have been extracted based on the following criteria:
- The claim lodgement date is between 1 January 2019 to 30 April 2024.
- The claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept'.
- The primary diagnosis is equal to contusion / crushing, dislocation, fracture, soft tissue injury, sprain or strain.

Caveats:

- A calendar year is 1 January to 31 December.
- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.
- 'New claims' have been counted by the date that they were lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.
- Diagnosis and injury description are based on the client's primary injury. Claims may have multiple injuries; however, these secondary injuries will not show within this data extract.
- Data were extracted on 29 May 2024 and may differ if rerun at a later date.

Table 1: Average weekly compensation days for new claims for musculoskeletal injuries lodged between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2024, broken down by top 20 most prevalent primary injury description and claim lodgement calendar year.

Primary Injury Description	Claim Lodgement Calendar Year						Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD	
Lumbar sprain	115.6	122.4	110.5	101.9	84.0	38.5	100.7
Neck sprain	132.9	148.8	128.9	116.2	92.4	40.0	116.5
Ankle sprain	63.6	74.6	65.2	64.3	55.7	32.0	61.8
Sprain of shoulder and upper arm	148.8	155.6	145.0	132.9	104.2	45.9	131.4
Sprain of knee and leg	80.9	95.4	94.3	96.4	81.8	42.3	86.7
Thoracic sprain	97.6	91.0	79.7	96.5	74.9	32.2	83.6
Sprain of hip and thigh	116.8	117.0	114.5	108.8	93.0	43.5	104.6
Foot sprain	65.0	72.6	81.6	72.6	59.3	34.3	67.1
Sprain of elbow and forearm	108.6	110.9	112.7	107.6	89.4	40.9	100.4
Sprain wrist ligament	111.9	116.5	96.5	97.1	78.1	41.8	94.3
Rotator cuff sprain	168.9	161.5	157.8	143.5	114.9	49.0	143.6
Sprain, shoulder joint	150.1	154.2	148.8	124.9	98.3	45.8	123.6
Contusion, chest wall	53.4	64.7	51.5	52.9	46.3	29.7	51.6
Sprain finger	79.0	76.6	74.8	68.0	65.7	41.1	70.2
Sprain gastrocnemius	46.5	64.1	51.3	56.8	55.0	31.5	52.9
Sprain of medial collateral ligament of knee	86.1	112.5	110.0	96.8	87.2	42.3	95.5
Sprain thumb	81.2	86.2	77.6	76.8	68.9	35.7	74.6
Contusion, knee	80.6	90.6	95.9	89.0	79.8	43.5	84.1
Knee sprain NOS	99.8	118.2	94.0	101.6	84.6	46.2	96.2
Rib sprain	51.5	57.8	40.6	46.6	41.4	25.2	45.4
Total	105.2	114.9	104.6	98.8	81.5	39.0	95.9