



19 March 2024

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-030777

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

What link shows the comparative cost of treating a similar injury, ie: a Rotator Cuff tear cost - Physiotherapy, verse the cost of an Orthopaedic opinion with conservative Rx, management only, (without surgery) verse the cost of the same or similar injury being seen in a DHB?

What is the cost to ACC of a simple Lumbar Sprain, Physiotherapy - manual therapy, verse Integrated/Enhanced Care Pathway, verse Chiropractic, verse, Osteopath, verse Acupuncturist, verse Musculo Skeletal Medical Practitioner, verse Orthopaedic Surgeon without surgery

Costing different treatments for an injury

A rotator cuff tear injury would likely require both physiotherapy and orthopaedic input making it difficult to provide comparative costs between physiotherapy treatment and conservative management by an orthopaedic surgeon. Orthopaedic surgeons also tend not to manage a client if surgery is not required. In this case, the client is referred either for rehabilitation, or back to the referring provider.

With respect to treating a simple lumbar sprain, a client would be expected to recover within 3-6 weeks. Therefore, these clients are unlikely to see an orthopaedic surgeon or musculoskeletal medical practitioner. They also would not enter the integrated care pathway since a lumbar sprain does not meet the inclusion criteria.

Noting the above points, ACC does not hold information on the comparative costs for different treatment pathways for these injuries. Therefore, we are refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act. However, to assist you, we are able to provide some high-level cost information on treatment costs for different provider types, and comparative costs of treatment on a per claim basis.

ACC costs by provider type

The cost of orthopedic services are contained within the clinical services contract which is available on our website, here: <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/contracts/clinical-services-schedule.pdf>

Most physiotherapy services are funded under Cost of Treatment Regulations, which outline a contribution that ACC pays for injury related consultations and treatment. These regulations can be viewed at the following link: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2003/0388/latest/DLM235778.html?search=ts_regulation%40deemedreg_regulations_resel_25_a&p=1#DLM236530. Physiotherapy services may also be funded under the Allied Health Services contract, available here: <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/contracts/allied-health-services-service-schedule.pdf>. The average number of treatments by a physiotherapist is four to five.

Cost per claim by provider type

Please find below a comparison of treatments and costs for services under the Cost of Treatment Regulations, which may be of interest to you.

Comparison of CoTR providers

	Acupuncture	Physiotherapy	Osteopathy	Chiropractic
Average Treatments per claim	7.22	5.16	4.44	7.20
Average cost per claim	426	240	183	189
Cost per treatment (to ACC)	60	47	42	26
Total spend 2023	38.72M	49.87M	17.1M	19.83M
No. of providers	1023	1819	602	709

This table was presented by ACC's Performance Monitoring team to Physiotherapy New Zealand and the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand.

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

ACC has decided 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