



20 May 2024

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-032064

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Occupational injuries in large animal veterinarians within the past 10 years.

More specifically:

1. *Repetitive strain injuries in the wrist/hand*
2. *Musculoskeletal injuries in the wrist/hand*
3. *Needlestick injuries*
4. *Any injuries caused specifically from the use of syringe/injection guns*

Our response

ACC's work-related claims data is recorded by workplaces' industry classification unit. There is only one classification unit for veterinarians, which is Veterinary Services (CU86400). Noting this, we do not hold claims data that is specific to large animal veterinarians. For this reason, we are refusing your request as we don't hold the information. This decision is made under section 18(g) of the Act.

However, we are able to provide the claim information for the Veterinary Services. Please find this attached. Please refer to the notes provided when reviewing this information.

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

ACC may decide to 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:

Occupational injuries in large animal veterinarians within the past 10 years. More specifically:

Repetitive strain injuries in the wrist/hand

Musculoskeletal injuries in the wrist/hand

Needlestick injuries

Any injuries caused specifically from the use of syringe/injection guns

Caveats and Notes:

- All included claims are accepted for cover with accepted injury.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer are not included.
- Work-related claims are identified where the claim is managed through the work funding account or the at work indicator is 'Y'.
- Claims for Veterinary services is identified if classification unit is 86400. Please note that the classification unit is for employer and does not necessarily represent the job description of the client.
- Diagnosis, injury description and injury site are not only just based on a claim's primary injury. A claim may include multiple injuries and these non primary injuries will also be included here.
- Please note that the injury description is based on the read codes, ICD9 codes and ICD10 codes supplied by the treatment provider. There are many thousand codes available to diagnose an injury and there is not always only one option that could apply to a specific injury. The injury descriptions provided are the most common used for this dataset but each description is not an exhaustive count of the claims that this description could apply to. For example, a cat bite could have been recorded as an open wound to a specific injury site without referencing that this was due to a cat bite. The counts for each injury description should therefore be considered indicative.
- New claims are counted where the claim was lodged with ACC between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2023. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage.
- For repetitive strain injury on hand or wrist, claims with gradual process flag equals to 'Y' and injury site equals to 'Hand / Wrist' are counted.
- For musculoskeletal injury on hand or wrist, claims with injury diagnosis is listed below and injury site equals to 'Hand / Wrist' are counted:
Contusion(intact Skin)inc Crushing', 'Dislocation', 'Fracture', 'Fracture/dislocation', 'Soft Tissue Inj (contu,str,spr,int', 'Sprain Or Strain'
- For needle related claims, claims with injury description contains key word 'needle' or accident description contains key word 'needle stick' are counted.
- For syringe related claims, claims with injury description contains key word 'syringe' or accident description contains key words 'syringe' or 'injection gun' are counted.
- The data set available to ACC is reliant on the information provided on an ACC45 injury claim form, which is completed when a person seeks treatment for their injury. The form has a free-text field 'accident description' where a person can provide a brief description of how their accident happened. This field is not mandatory to complete and not every client does so. Also, when the field is completed, there is considerable variation in the way accidents are described.
- Data was extracted 7 May 2024 and may differ if re-run later.

Table: New work-related claims in the veterinary services industry between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2023, broken down by type of injury.

Lodgement Calendar Year	All Claims	Claims for Repetitive Strain Injury on Hand / Wrist	Claims for Musculoskeletal Injury on Hand / Wrist	Needle Related Claims	Syringe Related Claims
2014	397	0	13	7	1
2015	759	0	32	11	2
2016	738	1	29	15	1
2017	823	1	36	14	3
2018	854	0	45	24	1
2019	872	0	39	15	2
2020	785	1	42	17	1
2021	909	1	38	15	1
2022	833	3	41	16	0
2023	762	1	49	9	3