

14 February 2022



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016233

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I seek information in relation to the number of requests for cover for a physical injury of metallosis (metal ion disease) as either a consequential injury or a treatment injury for all types of hip replacement prostheses and the number of accepted claims for same

Background information about treatment injury data

Before responding to your request, we would first like to provide you with some background information about treatment injuries.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from a registered health professional. In order to fulfil the criteria for cover, the person must have suffered a personal injury and there must be a clear causal link between the treatment and the injury, and the injury must not be a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment.

When considering treatment injury data, it is important to note that the number of claims lodged with ACC cannot be taken as an accurate indication of the occurrence of injury during treatment or the quality of care. This is because, among other reasons, not all occurrences of injury during treatment are lodged with ACC.

Context

Treatment injury (TI) data is available from 1 July 2005, when treatment injury provisions came into law.

The ACC website contains further information on treatment injury <https://www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/treatment-safety/>.

A full overview of treatment injury in public and private surgical hospitals and general practice settings is available at <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf>.

Claim lodgement rates are dependent on several factors. They can be influenced by:

- population demography i.e. the characteristics of the resident population, visitors and referred patients
- health status of the population treated
- what level of facility the organisation provides i.e. tertiary versus secondary
- familiarity of health providers or clients in recognising and/or lodging treatment injury claims.

Treatment injury data

The treatment injury data provided below was extracted on 3 February 2022 and includes claims decided between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021.

Claims were identified as meeting the criteria of your request if the terms *metallosis* or *metalosis* were mentioned in the injury diagnosis field of the claim lodgement form, or the claim indicated *metallosis* as the primary injury.

All identified claims were clinically reviewed to confirm they all relate to hip replacements.

The number of metallosis treatment injury claims (caused by all types of hip replacement), 2017 – 2021

Accepted	Declined	Total
59	17	76

Other metallosis claims

We also conducted a search of non-treatment injury claims. Claims were identified when the accident description or injury description include the keyword 'metallosis' or 'metal ion'. Data was extracted 8 February 2022 and may differ if re-run later.

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 there have been 7 accepted non-treatment injury claims related to metallosis. There were zero declined non-treatment injury claims in the same time period.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

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Government Engagement & Support