



13 April 2023

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-024076**

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2023, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*In ACC clients with cover for [a lower back injury] i.e., lumbar sprain or lumbar disc prolapse with radiculopathy -*

- 1. How many of them have billed for high tech imaging from 2010 to the present date?*
- 2. How many of these have also billed for a spinal x-ray under Radiology Cost of Treatment Regulations?*
- 3. How many of these also billed for consults with specialists under the Clinical Services contract?*

**The data requested is attached as Appendix 1**

When interpreting the data provided, please refer to the 'Notes' tab.

**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](http://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](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Ngā mihi

Sara Freitag  
**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement

**Description:**

*I would be grateful for the following information: In ACC clients with cover for [a lower back injury] i.e., lumbar sprain or lumbar disc prolapse with radiculopathy:*

- 1. How many of them have billed for high tech imaging from 2010 to the present date?*
- 2. How many of these have also billed for a spinal x-ray under Radiology Cost of Treatment Regulations? &*
- 3. How many of these also billed for consults with specialists under the Clinical Services contract?*

**Caveats and Notes:**

- Claims are included where they have a cover decision of Accept.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer have been excluded as we hold limited data about these.
- Lower back injuries are identified where a claim has an approved injury with an injury site of lower back/spine.
- Data are displayed in calendar years, i.e. 1 January to 31 December.
- A claim may be active in more than one calendar year and will be counted once for each relevant year where at least one payment was made.
- Costs are GST exclusive and based on payment date, which may differ from date of service.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. These costs are for treatment in a public hospital during the acute phase of an injury and are covered by bulk payments made by ACC to the Crown. As such, these payments cannot be attributed to individual claims.
- Active claims with High Tech Imaging Services are identified where lower back/spine injury claims receives a payment between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 within contract high tech imaging services.
- Claims billed for a spinal x-ray under Radiology Cost of Treatment Regulations are identified where service item code is equals to 'B03'.
- Claims billed for consults with specialists under the Clinical Services contract are identified where service item code is equals to 'CS100' or 'CS200'.
- A claim may include multiple injuries. However, we are unable to determine from our data set which cost/services relate to which injuries. Therefore, it is possible that some costs and HTI services captured in the data set are not related to lower back/spine injury specifically.
- Data were extracted 28 March 2023 and may differ if re-run later.

**Table 1: Active lower back / spine injury claims with HTI payments and costs paid between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 broken down by calendar year**

Payment Calendar Year	Active HTI Claims	Active HTI Costs
2010	12,599	\$10,996,565
2011	13,263	\$11,213,592
2012	14,290	\$12,464,836
2013	15,536	\$13,707,958
2014	16,348	\$15,003,860
2015	18,243	\$17,310,893
2016	18,976	\$18,371,769
2017	19,721	\$19,799,545
2018	20,976	\$21,457,267
2019	22,474	\$24,408,547
2020	23,671	\$26,574,651
2021	26,346	\$30,906,963
2022	26,502	\$32,123,218

**Table 2: Active lower back / spine injury claims with payments under specific service codes between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 broken down by calendar year**

Payment Calendar Year	Active Claims for B03	Active Costs for B03	Active Claims for CS100 and CS200	Active Costs for CS100 and CS200
2010	26,445	\$1,534,212	14,191	\$3,064,577
2011	27,891	\$1,616,178	14,558	\$3,145,344
2012	30,374	\$1,760,256	14,932	\$3,232,334
2013	32,744	\$1,888,652	15,864	\$3,389,882
2014	33,888	\$1,981,633	16,785	\$3,667,874
2015	36,116	\$2,121,263	18,085	\$4,031,216
2016	37,935	\$2,232,227	18,483	\$4,187,192
2017	36,621	\$2,200,627	20,929	\$4,942,933
2018	35,557	\$2,140,249	21,931	\$5,282,809
2019	36,992	\$2,260,509	22,637	\$5,529,189
2020	36,007	\$2,189,315	22,718	\$5,660,762
2021	41,663	\$2,571,925	25,069	\$6,403,650
2022	44,288	\$2,758,477	25,183	\$6,574,167