



## PROACTIVE RELEASE August 2022

### GOV-015769 Data related to COVID-19 vaccinations

The treatment injury data provided was extracted on 22 August 2022 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began COVID vaccinations, and 20 August 2022, where the treatment event was *vaccination* or *injection/medications*, *adverse reaction/medication error* and where the medication type was recorded as *vaccine*.

However, as these fields are only completed when cover for the claim is decided, the figures provided have been supplemented by a text search of the claim forms received by ACC which mention *Comirnaty* (the name of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine), *AstraZeneca*, *Novavax*, or included the terms *covid* or *Pfizer* together with *vacc* or *injection*. This text search allows us to identify claims that have been lodged but where cover has not been decided. Free text search methods are not reliable data extraction methods and can result in anomalies in the data; so claims identified by this method above have been manually reviewed and some false positive matches removed.

During this period ACC has received 3,095 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 1,234 claims have been accepted, 1,673 have been declined and 188 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the sex, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty had until very recently been the only Covid vaccine that has been used as part of New Zealand's vaccination response but more recently the Astra Zeneca and Novavax Covid-19 vaccines have also been used. The specific vaccine used is not always identified on the claim so identifying the vaccine used cannot be reliably determined. Given the vaccination policy, the vast majority of the claims reported below relate to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

#### Claim lodgement rates

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.

#### Privacy

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is less than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (--) to limit the potential for particular individuals or matters specific to certain individuals from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

### Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third/booster dose. Whilst 52% have provided this information, it has been provided as free text and nearly 50% of claims do not clarify which dose was involved. The table below categorises the claims received based on whether the claim was for the first, second or third primary/booster dose or whether this wasn't clear from the description given.

Dose	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
First	147	272	27	446
Second	335	440	37	812
Third Primary/Booster	124	185	46	355
Unspecified	628	776	78	1,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3,095</b>

### Accepted Injuries

Treatment injuries are confirmed and recorded when a claim is decided. The following table shows the primary injury recorded for the accepted Covid vaccination claims decided by 20 August 2022.

Primary injury	Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	195
Sprain	140
Cardiac injury	126
Contusion	124
Adverse Drug Reaction	98
Anaphylactic Reaction	85
Infection	64
Cellulitis	45
Bursitis	25
Nerve Damage	22
Other	310
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>

### Declined Reason

The table below shows the number of declined claims, broken down by declined reasons, which relate to the treatment injury assessment criteria.

Declined Reason	Number of Declined Claims
No Injury	1,261
No Causal Link	219
Withdrawn	70
Lack of Information	39
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	17
Other	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,673</b>

### Severity of Injuries

Measuring the impact of an injury on a person is challenging. ACC and others use the overall cost of a treatment injury claim as an indicator of the severity of the injury because more costly claims are likely to indicate claims where there has been a more severe impact on the person injured. While not always directly related, overall cost is one measure of severity and impact.

The following table shows the number of accepted claims grouped by the total payments made per claim to 22 August 2022.

Payments to 22 August 2022	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	219
Up to \$100	343
Over \$100 to \$500	391
Over \$500 to \$1,000	85
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	98
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	33
Over \$10,000	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>

Total payments made by ACC by 22 August 2022 on these 1,234 accepted claims was \$2,495,921. 281 out of 1,234 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 22 August 2022. 219 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 22 August 2022.

To date, fewer than 4 claims have been lodged with ACC which have related to a fatal injury.

### Ethnicity

The ethnicity data provided is based on ACC's 'prioritised ethnicity' data field. This method reduces the six ethnic responses to a single response by a system of "prioritisation" where: Māori regardless of other ethnicities listed is classified as Māori; Pacific peoples with any other response other than Māori is classified as Pacific; Asian peoples with any other response other than Māori and Pacific are classified as Asian; Other ethnicity regardless of any other response other than Māori, Asian or Pacific is classified as Other. Those that listed European and did not list Māori, Pacific, Asian or Other are classified as European.

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	111	145	11	267
Pacific Peoples	45	63	13	121
Asian	112	146	14	272
European	866	1,180	127	2,173
Other	100	139	23	262
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3,095</b>

70% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity with 70% accepted for cover. Māori comprise 9% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries and 9% of the claims accepted.

ACC reports ethnicity using a different method to Statistics New Zealand. Care must be taken when comparing ACC's ethnicity data with other Government agencies or census data.

Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
5-11	9	13	0	22
12-17	39	41	6	86
18-24	92	116	9	217
25-29	84	134	5	223
30-34	110	159	12	281
35-39	113	165	11	289
40-44	119	178	14	311
45-49	151	187	34	372
50-54	114	201	22	337
55-59	123	154	18	295
60-64	90	120	15	225
65-69	89	82	16	187
70-74	42	59	11	112
75-79	26	32	9	67
80 plus and unknown	33	32	6	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3,095</b>

Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	828	1,077	121	2,026
Male	406	596	67	1,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3,095</b>

The table above shows that females are far more likely than males to have lodged a claim for a Covid vaccination treatment injury. Claims for female clients represent 65% of claims lodged. This compares to 50% of the population with at least one Covid vaccination.<sup>1</sup>

Claims by Month

The following table shows the number of Covid vaccination injury claims received by ACC by month. This is grouped by the recorded accident date ('Number of Claimed Vaccinations' column in table below) and by the date on which the claim was lodged with ACC ('Number Lodged' column in table below). ACC records treatment injury accident dates as the date on which the client first sought treatment for the injury. This may not necessarily be the date on which the event leading to the injury occurred although for the purpose of the analysis this date is used as a proxy for the date of vaccination.

Few vaccinations and consequently vaccination claims were lodged in the month of February 2021, so February and March have been grouped together to avoid reporting small numbers.

Month	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March 2021	15	5
April 2021	69	21
May 2021	113	61

<sup>1</sup> Source: [COVID-19: Vaccine data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

June 2021	104	68
July 2021	141	51
August 2021	339	126
September 2021	479	262
October 2021	557	318
November 2021	357	418
December 2021	291	376
January 2022	252	272
February 2022	225	327
March 2022	63	242
April 2022	24	154
May 2022	17	141
June 2022	13	105
July 2022	22	86
August 2022 <sup>1</sup>	10	62
Unknown	4	0

#### DHB

The DHB has been provided below based on the DHB of Treatment where this has been identified and by the DHB of Residence of the client. Given that the number of claims received from some DHBs is quite small only the total number of claims lodged has been shown in the table below.

District Health Board Region	DHB of Treatment	DHB of Residence
Auckland	289	237
Bay of Plenty	88	167
Canterbury	155	342
Capital & Coast	112	176
Counties Manukau	43	254
Hawkes Bay	43	83
Hutt Valley	43	96
Lakes	25	56
Mid Central	63	119
Nelson Marlborough	62	125
Northland	60	94
South Canterbury	34	29
Southern	167	325
Tairāwhiti	11	23
Taranaki	77	125
Waikato	186	356
Wairarapa	17	28
Waitemata	89	352
West Coast	--	23
Whanganui	47	80
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,472	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>3,095</b>

## Time to Lodgement

Some vaccination injuries are immediately apparent whereas other injuries may take some time to become apparent. The table below shows the time between the accident date (assumed to be the date of vaccination in most cases) and the date when the claim is lodged with ACC.

Delay	Number of Claims	Delay	Number of Claims
0 days	115	21 days	32
1 days	147	22 days	25
2 days	123	23 days	19
3 days	136	24 days	31
4 days	109	25 days	19
5 days	92	26 days	15
6 days	69	27 days	19
7 days	66	4 weeks	166
8 days	52	5 weeks	111
9 days	39	6 weeks	94
10 days	41	7 weeks	92
11 days	34	8 weeks	79
12 days	39	9 weeks	66
13 days	32	10 weeks	66
14 days	33	11 weeks	74
15 days	26	12 weeks	65
16 days	29	3 months	215
17 days	24	4 months	158
18 days	27	5 months	130
19 days	25	6 months +	332
20 days	29		

## **Treatment Injury**

ACC has provided cover for treatment injuries since 1 July 2005, when treatment injury provisions came into law. The treatment injury provisions replaced the medical misadventure provisions of the Accident Compensation Act 2001, to bring it more in line with the no-fault nature of the scheme.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from, or at the direction of, 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.

The ACC website contains further information on treatment injury [www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/treatment-safety](http://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 [www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf](http://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf).