

21 February 2022



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016412**

Thank you for your email of 25 January 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *If you are able to send us details of a few specific inguinal hernia claims that ACC has recently accepted, please could you include ages.*

**Refusal of requested information**

ACC does not disclose details related to specific claims. This limits 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.

**General Inguinal Hernia data provided**

In lieu of disclosing details of specific claims, we have compiled data on all inguinal hernia claims for the last five years. Please find attached an excel file for this data.

*Notes on this data*

- Claims managed by an accredited employer are not included.
- Some claims may include more than one inguinal hernia, only one has been counted in this dataset.
- Age is the clients age at claim lodgement.
- New claims have been counted where the claim was lodged with ACC between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021. A claim may be lodged immediately after an accident or at any later stage.
- Active claims have been counted where at least one payment was made by ACC to a claim between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021. A claim was not necessarily lodged or had the accident occur within this same time period.
- A claim may be active in more than one calendar year and will be counted once for each year in which at least one payment was made.
- Costs are exclusive of GST.
- The costs provided are all claim costs for claims with an accepted inguinal hernia injury. These claims may include other accepted injuries. We are unable to separate out the costs that are solely for inguinal hernias.
- Costs are counted based on payment date. This is not necessarily the date of service.
- The count of claims with a surgery are those claims with an inguinal hernia injury that have been approved for one of the following elective surgeries:
  - GNS01 - Inguinal Hernia Repair (unilateral),
  - GNS02 - Incisional Hernia Repair,
  - GNS03 - Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia Repair - Primary / Recurrent (unilateral).
- A number of other elective surgeries were linked to claims with an inguinal hernia injury, but these were either for unrelated injuries or were unidentifiable as relating to the hernia injury and have been left out.

- Data was extracted 4 February 2022 and may differ if re-run later.

*ACC takes privacy seriously*

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 (..). This limits 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.

**Who to contact**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

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 [here](#).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support

**Table 1 New inguinal hernia injury claims lodged between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 broken down by injury cover decision, client age at claim lodgement and calendar year**

Cover Decision	Age at Lodgement	Lodgement Calendar Year				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Accept	0-9	0	0	<4	<4	4
	10-14	<4	0	<4	<4	0
	15-19	..	<4	<4	..	7
	20-24	15	..	18	11	14
	25-29	31	22	12	12	20
	30-34	26	33	24	27	24
	35-39	44	35	19	27	29
	40-44	54	28	44	34	29
	45-49	66	56	48	53	31
	50-54	69	60	81	60	42
	55-59	74	71	64	82	49
	60-64	85	91	80	69	74
	65-69	86	59	61	62	54
	70-74	46	56	48	39	37
	75-79	33	33	35	37	28
	80+	25	16	19	18	16
<b>Total Accepted</b>		<b>663</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>458</b>
Decline	0-9	<4	6	5	<4	<4
	10-14	..	4	6	<4	..
	15-19	14	19	14	13	25
	20-24	54	60	55	38	46
	25-29	73	84	70	63	56
	30-34	73	81	73	75	76
	35-39	68	73	82	93	83
	40-44	101	82	90	117	85
	45-49	114	112	127	116	98
	50-54	152	140	120	127	137
	55-59	147	155	151	138	146
	60-64	175	153	169	169	182
	65-69	160	168	142	137	140
	70-74	125	103	136	115	134
	75-79	63	68	71	60	77
	80+	40	49	58	46	60
<b>Total Declined</b>		<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,351</b>
<b>Total Investigating</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>&lt;4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

The number of claims with an investigating cover decision was too small to breakdown into client age brackets. Therefore, only the totals have been provided.

**Table 2 Active claims and costs for claims with an accepted inguinal hernia injury and payments between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 broken down by calendar year**

Payment Calendar Year	Active Claims	Active Costs
2017	1,240	\$7,015,578
2018	992	\$5,623,911
2019	998	\$6,100,949
2020	967	\$6,691,450
2021	800	\$5,596,506

**Table 3 New inguinal hernia injury claims with an inguinal hernia surgery lodged between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 broken down by client age at claim lodgement and calendar year**

Age at Lodgement	Lodgement Calendar Year				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
0-9	<4	<4	<4	0	0
10-14	<4	0	0	<4	0
15-19	<4	4	<4	<4	<4
20-24	..	..	5	..	4
25-29	8	7	5	20	..
30-34	16	15	10	20	21
35-39	11	18	12	26	22
40-44	30	28	14	35	18
45-49	33	39	19	46	38
50-54	61	41	24	49	44
55-59	47	61	26	55	51
60-64	59	47	41	57	73
65-69	43	47	36	70	44
70-74	36	24	16	34	41
75-79	25	24	12	24	24
80+	11	12	10	20	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>403</b>

These surgeries are counted by claim lodgement date. Please note that, particularly in the case of more recently lodged claims, surgery may be still to come and these numbers are likely to change.