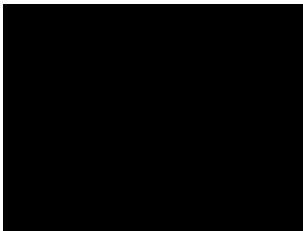


8 May 2023



Kia ora

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-024560

Thank you for your request on 11 April 2023 to Cover Assessor, asking for the following information:

Statistics around how many umbilical hernia claims we receive, accept & decline.

ACC holds two sets of data relevant to umbilical hernia claims

One set relates to hernias caused by a personal injury/accident (PICBA claims) and the other relates to hernia injuries caused by treatment (treatment injury claims). As such, we have provided two sets of hernia claims data, one for each circumstance. The data was extracted on 1 May 2023 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

PICBA claims

The following points should be considered when interpreting the PICBA data:

- The data provided has been extracted for PICBA claims lodged with ACC between 1 January 2018 and 30 April 2023, where the injury description contains the keyword 'umbilical' and 'hernia'.
- We have excluded accredited employer claims, as we hold limited data about these. Duplicate claims have also not been included.
- Decline decisions include both declined claims and accepted claims with a declined umbilical hernia injury.

New PICBA umbilical hernia claims by year and cover decision

Cover Decision	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD
Accept	20	11	29	24	38	6
Decline	281	259	272	318	315	91

Treatment injury claims

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.

The number of treatment injury 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 following points should be considered when interpreting this treatment injury data:

- Claims have been included if they were decided between 1 January 2018 and 1 May 2023.
- We were able to identify hernia treatment injury claims through a structured search, but a free text search was required to identify umbilical hernia claims. Free text search methods are not reliable and can result in anomalies in the data. The free text search used for this query may have resulted in an undercount.
- The decision year is the year that the treatment injury claim was decided. This can differ from the year the injury occurred.

Treatment injury claims by year and cover decision

Cover Decision	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 YTD
Accept	36	55	57	39	44	15
Decline	18	15	12	20	19	8

Further information

There is further information about cover for hernias available on the ACC website, including the 'Primary abdominal wall hernias, including groin hernias: A guide to ACC cover' found here:

www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/abdominal-wall-hernias-incl-groin-acc7913.pdf.

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

ACC may decide 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.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Ngā mihi



Sara Freitag

Acting Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement