



# Supporting maternal birth injuries as a midwife

 Read time: 3 mins

Maternal birth injuries can have a huge impact on women/birthing parents and whānau after the birth of a pēpi/baby.

We're here to help women/birthing parents with covered injuries get the support they need – whether that's treatment, help at home, or assistance with other costs associated with their recovery.

## What's covered

Our legislation allows us to cover specific maternal birth injuries which happen during labour or delivery after 12.00am on 1 October 2022.

For injuries that happen before midnight on 31 September 2022, or those not listed, women/birthing parents may be eligible for treatment injury cover if the injury was caused by the treatment provided by a health professional during birth.

As a midwife, you can lodge a claim with us for maternal birth injuries within your scope of practice, provided they're on the list of covered injuries. See the table on page 2.

## Registering with us

Midwives working in a hospital should check with the facility for guidance about the most appropriate way to lodge claims. Public hospitals have these systems and processes already in place.

If you're working in the community or a facility without an existing process to lodge claims, you'll need to register with us as a healthcare provider. This means we can process your claim through our systems. Registering can be done in a few simple steps if you have the right information at hand.

[acc.co.nz/register-health-provider](https://acc.co.nz/register-health-provider)

All midwives will continue to be funded by Te Whatu Ora, with no ACC funding for claim lodgement.

## Lodging an ACC45\* claim form

Not every injury will need an ACC claim. You should consider lodging a claim if you and the woman/birthing parent in your care believe they will benefit from further support to help them recover.

Lodging a claim is the first step to ensure injured women/birthing parents can access ACC-funded support. A claim can be made at any time and doesn't need to be done immediately after birth.

If you're lodging claims using a hospital practice or patient management system, we suggest checking in with the facility about any specific lodgement processes.

If you're lodging a claim for a birth in the community or in a facility without an existing process, you'll need to send us a paper version of the ACC45. You'll get more information about this after you register with us.

Once we have the completed form, we'll process the claim and be in touch with the injured person about the outcome and the next steps.

\*This also applies to ACC46 forms used in hospitals.



## Completing the form

So your client/patient has their claim reviewed as quickly as possible, the completed ACC45 should include:

- ✓ **When the accident happened** as the date the birth occurred
- ✓ **Injury diagnosis** as one of the correct read codes. Please list the underlying injury (eg fourth-degree tear) and not the symptom (eg urinary incontinence)
- ✓ Include 'MBI' or 'maternal birth injury' in the **additional injury comments** field
- ✓ Leave Part E (Work Capacity) blank as this section can only be completed by doctors and nurse practitioners
- ✓ Complete all other sections fully including the client/patient's declaration.

If you're submitting a paper ACC45, scan and email each form as a PDF to [hamilton.registration@acc.co.nz](mailto:hamilton.registration@acc.co.nz). You can also send us a good quality photo of the form.

## Referring to another specialist

If you suspect a woman/birthing parent has experienced an injury that's outside your scope of practice to diagnose, refer them to their general practitioner, nurse practitioner, or another specialist as you normally would.

## Using the right Read code

ACC-registered practitioners can lodge claims within their area of practice. As a midwife, you'll be able to lodge claims for the following injuries:

Covered maternal birth injuries	Example Read codes
Obstetric anal sphincter injury tears or tears to the perineum, labia, vagina, vulva, clitoris, cervix, rectum, anus, or urethra (all grades)	L340.; L341.; L342.; L343.; L3540; L353.

Refer to our full list of MBI-related read and SNOMED codes: [acc.co.nz/read-codes](https://acc.co.nz/read-codes)

## Referring to another specialist

## Information for your clients/patients

Our website includes information for clients/patients who may need extra support, including links to resources and organisations who can help.

### Where to learn more

We've created resources to help you lodge claims with confidence. Sign up to our free learning platform [learning.acc.co.nz](https://learning.acc.co.nz) and click on the Maternal Birth Injuries section. Modules will take around 15 minutes to complete in total.

Find out more about working with us. [acc.co.nz/getting-started](https://acc.co.nz/getting-started)

