

ACC Position Statement

Treating Clients in a sports' setting



This statement clarifies ACC's position about treating and invoicing ACC for Allied Health services provided to sports people at training sessions and sporting events.

ACC funds treatment in this setting only if that treatment meets ACC's legislative requirements of being:

- necessary and appropriate, and of the quality required, for the purpose of treating an injury
- performed only on the number of occasions necessary for that purpose
- given at a time or place appropriate for that purpose
- of a type normally provided by a treatment provider. For example, not first aid that could reasonably be expected to be given by a member of the public
- provided by a treatment provider of a type who is qualified to provide that treatment and who normally provides that treatment

To meet ACC's funding criteria, you'll also need to make sure that:

- you're treating an injury already covered by ACC, or your treatment relates to a new injury that is likely to be covered by ACC
- your contemporaneous clinical records clearly evidence the clinical rationale that the treatment was necessary, appropriate and of a suitable quality.
- Informed consent from the client or their representative to lodge a claim on their behalf is documented
- you are invoicing ACC for treatment provided in New Zealand

These expectations apply to any allied health professional, invoicing ACC for providing treatment in the sports setting, either voluntarily or privately funded.

We would not normally expect ongoing treatment to be needed in the sports setting.

The Accident Compensation Act 2001 section 128 states that we are unable to pay for treatment provided outside of New Zealand, this includes any treatment being provided in a sports setting overseas. This is because section 129 of the Act does not apply in this setting.

Other services that cannot be invoiced to ACC in a sports setting are:

- injury prevention (eg prophylactic strapping)
- non-injury related sporting activity preparation/recovery (eg techniques such as non- injury related massage or manipulations)
- general improvement of sporting performance techniques (eg non-injury related exercise programmes)

Considerations

If you're a physiotherapist invoicing under the ACC Physiotherapy contract, you'll also need to consider whether you're able to provide treatment off site as part of your contract. Some offsite treatment may be provided at a site not specified in the contract, however this can only be invoiced to ACC at the lower rate described in the contract.

It's important to consider whether the setting is suitable for providing treatment that meets ACC's funding criteria

- you can provide and document appropriate assessment and treatment of an injury
- It is safe for your patient, yourself and others in the vicinity
- the necessary equipment is available
- you can maintain your patient's privacy including their clinical records

If you have Allied Health students working on placement in your practice you need to familiarise yourself with our position statement [Seeking ACC payment for treatment provided by Allied Health Students](#). You also need to confirm with their educational institution that treating in a sports setting is acceptable as part of their training.

Where we find that the criteria for the treatment in a sports setting have not been met and it is not clinically justified we will seek reimbursement of payments made.

Please contact your local ACC Engagement and Performance Manager if you have any further questions. Contact details can be found on our website

<https://www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/provide-services/engagement-performance-managers/>