



**He Kaupare. He Manaaki.  
He Whakaora.**  
prevention. care. recovery.

# Treatment injury reference information

## HQSC health system quality dashboard

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This information relates to the ACC treatment injury information that is available via the Health Quality and Safety Commission's [health system quality dashboard](#).

### Comparison disclaimer

Public hospitals are spread throughout the country. Each District Health Board (DHB) is different – with a distinctive case-mix due to the demographics and health status of its population. As a result, they provide different types of surgery, treatments and services. In addition, each DHB may provide differing levels of primary, secondary and tertiary levels of service. For these reasons, directly comparing between DHBs is not meaningful.

### Dashboard data

The information outlined in each dashboard only includes treatment injury claims resulting from treatment in a DHB facility (public hospital) setting.

The registered health professional who lodged the claim identified the setting where the treatment that caused the injury was delivered.

### Measures presented

The five ACC treatment injury claims reported in this dashboard are:

- infections of all types
- infections following surgery
- line infections (central and peripheral)
- pressure injuries
- medication adverse reactions.

These five types:

- have significant impact on the person and their families/whānau
- are injuries identified internationally as amenable to prevention strategies
- are injuries that may be indicators of safer care.

Each has been calculated as the number of accepted treatment injury per 10,000 discharges based on the date of injury.

## **Date of injury**

The date the person first sought or received treatment for the personal injury caused by treatment.

## **Hospital discharge numbers**

Hospital discharge numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health from the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS).

## **How we define ‘treatment injury’**

The treatment injury data are accepted treatment injury claims resulting from treatment by, or at the direction of, a registered health professional.

To be considered, a claim for a treatment injury must meet the following requirements:

- an injury has occurred (physical harm or damage to the person)
- the treatment has caused the injury

the injury is not a necessary part or an ordinary consequence of treatment, after considering the clinical knowledge at the time of treatment, and the underlying health condition of the injured person.

## **Healthcare associated infection (HAI)**

An infection that is acquired in a hospital or other health facility. This includes a range of injuries such as abscesses, cellulitis, endocarditis, osteomyelitis, septicaemia, wound infections, arterial or venous line infections, and postsurgical infections.

## **Pressure injury**

A localised injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue (usually over a bony prominence) because of pressure, or pressure in combination with shear and/or friction. Many factors interact to make a person likely to have such an injury.

## **Medication adverse reactions**

A reaction to medications such as antibiotics and pain relievers inclusive of injections.

## **Accepted ACC treatment injury claim**

A personal injury that has been clinically investigated and that meets the criteria under Section 32 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (AC Act).

## **Number of accepted claims**

Numbers of treatment injury claims accepted for ACC cover are influenced by factors such as the health status of the population and rates of contact with treatment services, the facilities available (for example, tertiary versus secondary level hospitals), and the familiarity of health providers with the process of making a treatment injury claim. Once a claim is lodged, it will be assessed, then accepted or declined.

The figures reported may differ from previously released data due to changes in underlying data as new information becomes available and claims are updated.

More ACC treatment injury information is available on our [Supporting Safer Treatment](#) webpage.