



## PROACTIVE RELEASE April 2023

### GOV-015769 Data related to COVID-19 vaccinations

The data below was extracted on 18 April 2023 for treatment injury claims lodged with ACC between 18 February 2021 (when New Zealand began COVID-19 vaccinations) and 15 April 2023, where the treatment event was *vaccination or injection/medications, adverse reaction/medication error* and where the medication type was recorded as *vaccine*.

However, as these fields are only completed when cover for the claim is decided, the figures provided have been supplemented by a text search of the claim forms received by ACC which mention *Comirnaty* (the name of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine), *AstraZeneca, Vaxzevria* (alternative name of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine), *Novavax, Nuvaxovid* (the name of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine), or included the terms *covid* or *Pfizer* together with *vacc, injection, booster, jab, or shot*. This text search allows us to identify claims that have been lodged but where cover has not been decided. Free text search methods are not reliable data extraction methods and can result in anomalies in the data; so claims identified by this method above have been manually reviewed and some false positive matches removed.

During this period, ACC has received 3,818 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 1,541 claims have been accepted, 2,169 have been declined and 108 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the sex, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty had until recently been the only Covid vaccine that has been used as part of New Zealand's vaccination response but more recently the AstraZeneca and Novavax Covid-19 vaccines have also been used. The specific vaccine used is not always identified on the claim so identifying the vaccine used cannot be reliably determined. Given the vaccination policy, the vast majority of the claims reported below relate to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

#### Claim lodgement rates

Claim lodgement rates are dependent on several factors. They can be influenced by:

- population demography i.e. the characteristics of the resident population, visitors and referred patients
- health status of the population treated
- what level of facility the organisation provides i.e. tertiary versus secondary
- familiarity of health providers or clients in recognising and/or lodging treatment injury claims.

#### Privacy

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 (--) to limit 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.

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.

## Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third primary/booster dose. Whilst 56% have provided this information it has been provided as free text and nearly 50% of claims do not clarify which dose was involved. The table below categorises the claims received based on whether the claim was for the first, second or third primary/booster dose or whether this wasn't clear from the description given.

Dose	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
First	167	318	10	495
Second	388	514	26	928
Third Primary/Booster <sup>1</sup>	264	416	21	701
Unspecified	722	921	51	1,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3,818</b>

<sup>1</sup>ACC does not routinely collect the number of booster dose, we are unable to specify if that is the first booster or the second booster dose.

## Accepted Injuries

Treatment injuries are confirmed and recorded when a claim is decided. The following table shows the primary injury recorded for the accepted Covid vaccination claims decided by 15 April 2023.

Primary injury	Accepted Claims
Allergic Reaction	219
Cardiac injury	171
Sprain	194
Contusion	148
Adverse Drug Reaction	119
Anaphylactic Reaction	93
Infection	69
Cellulitis	51
Bursitis	34
Nerve Damage	26
Other	417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>

## Declined Reason

The table below shows the number of declined claims, broken down by declined reasons, which relate to the treatment injury assessment criteria.

Declined Reason	Number of Declined Claims
No Injury	1,600
No Causal Link	304
Withdrawn	102
Lack of Information	60
Ordinary Consequence of Treatment	19
Other	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,169</b>

### Severity of Injuries

Measuring the impact of an injury on a person is challenging. ACC and others use the overall cost of a treatment injury claim as an indicator of the severity of the injury because more costly claims are likely to indicate claims where there has been a more severe impact on the person injured. While not always directly related, overall cost is one measure of severity and impact.

The following table shows the number of accepted claims grouped by the total payments made per claim to 18 April 2023.

Payments to 18 April 2023	Number of Accepted Claims
No payment to date	250
Up to \$100	381
Over \$100 to \$500	473
Over \$500 to \$1,000	130
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	159
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	47
Over \$10,000	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>

437 out of 1,541 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 18 April 2023. 250 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 18 April 2023.

Total payments made by ACC by 18 April 2023 on these 1,541 accepted claims was \$5,658,510.

To date, 4 claims have been lodged with ACC which have related to a fatal injury.

### Ethnicity

The ethnicity data provided below is based on ACC's 'prioritised ethnicity' data field. This method reduces the six ethnic responses to a single response by a system of "prioritisation" where: Māori regardless of other ethnicities listed is classified as Māori; Pacific peoples with any other response other than Māori is classified as Pacific; Asian peoples with any other response other than Māori and Pacific are classified as Asian; Other ethnicity regardless of any other response other than Māori, Asian or Pacific is classified as Other. Those that listed European and did not list Māori, Pacific, Asian or Other are classified as European.

Ethnicity	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Māori	134	196	6	336
Pacific Peoples	55	84	7	146
Asian	137	188	4	329
European	1,089	1,519	83	2,691
Other	126	182	8	316
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3,818</b>

70% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries have been for clients with European ethnicity with 70% accepted for cover. Māori comprise 9% of claims lodged with ACC for Covid vaccination injuries and 9% of the claims accepted.

ACC reports ethnicity using a different method to Statistics New Zealand. Care must be taken when comparing ACC's ethnicity data with other Government agencies or census data.

### Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
5-11	11	13	0	24
12-17	47	--	<4	99
18-24	104	152	7	263
25-29	104	163	4	271
30-34	132	195	12	339
35-39	139	195	8	342
40-44	147	232	8	387
45-49	176	248	11	435
50-54	148	258	13	419
55-59	161	191	16	368
60-64	114	162	8	284
65-69	121	120	8	249
70-74	58	96	7	161
75-79	35	--	<4	83
80 plus and unknown	44	--	<4	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3,818</b>

### Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	1,042	1,390	64	2,496
Male	499	779	44	1,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3,818</b>

The table above shows that females are more likely than males to have lodged a claim for a Covid vaccination treatment injury. Claims for female clients represent 65% of claims lodged. This compares to 50% of the population with at least one Covid vaccination.<sup>1</sup>

### Claims by Month

The following table shows the number of Covid vaccination injury claims received by ACC by month. This is grouped by the recorded accident date ('Number of Claimed Vaccinations' column in table below) and by the date on which the claim was lodged with ACC ('Number Lodged' column in table below). ACC records treatment injury accident dates as the date on which the client first sought treatment for the injury. This may not necessarily be the date on which the event leading to the injury occurred although for the purpose of the analysis this date is used as a proxy for the date of vaccination.

Month	Number of Claimed Vaccinations	Number Lodged
February - March 2021 <sup>2</sup>	17	--
April 2021	73	21
May 2021	122	61
June 2021	118	74
July 2021	158	52
August 2021	386	131

<sup>2</sup> Few vaccinations and consequently vaccination claims were lodged in the month of February 2021, so February and March 2021 have been grouped together to avoid reporting small numbers.

<sup>3</sup> April 2023 is partial month to 15 April 2023.

September 2021	515	277
October 2021	610	334
November 2021	407	433
December 2021	346	397
January 2022	361	316
February 2022	358	386
March 2022	90	285
April 2022	33	172
May 2022	20	162
June 2022	18	117
July 2022	57	101
August 2022	53	110
September 2022	18	91
October 2022	17	67
November 2022	0	64
December 2022	9	50
January 2023	5	32
February 2023	<4	37
March 2023	<4	27
April 2023 <sup>3</sup>	5	14
Unknown	16	<4

#### DHB

The DHB has been provided below based on the DHB of Treatment where this has been identified and by the DHB of Residence of the client. Given that the number of claims received from some DHBs is quite small only the total number of claims lodged has been shown in the table below.

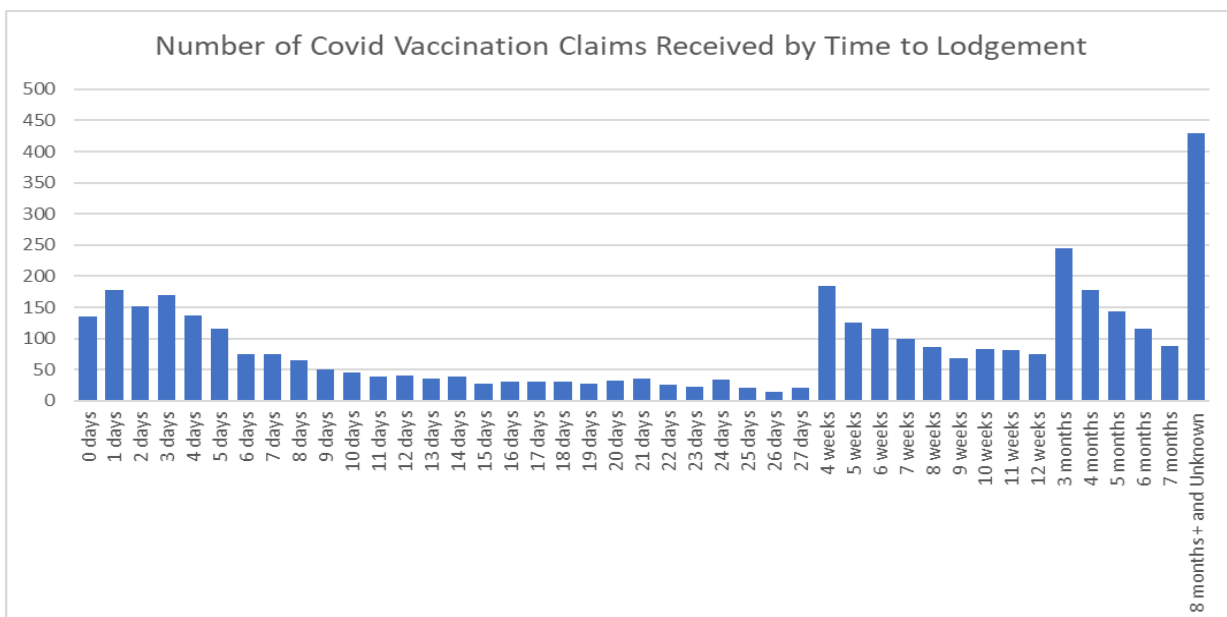
District Health Board Region	DHB of Treatment	DHB of Residence
Auckland	360	280
Bay of Plenty	113	190
Canterbury	210	432
Capital & Coast	133	215
Counties Manukau	55	306
Hawkes Bay	57	105
Hutt Valley	55	115
Lakes	34	73
Mid Central	81	138
Nelson Marlborough	84	151
Northland	80	121
South Canterbury	46	39
Southern	229	434
Tairāwhiti	17	29
Taranaki	98	151
Waikato	243	439
Wairarapa	22	35
Waitemata	115	424
West Coast	--	32
Whanganui	62	103
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	1,708	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>3,818</b>

## Time to Lodgement

Some vaccination injuries are immediately apparent whereas other injuries may take some time to become apparent. The table below shows the time between the accident date (assumed to be the date of vaccination in most cases) and the date when the claim is lodged with ACC.

Delay	Number of Claims	Delay	Number of Claims
0 days	136	22 days	26
1 days	178	23 days	22
2 days	151	24 days	34
3 days	169	25 days	20
4 days	137	26 days	15
5 days	116	27 days	21
6 days	74	4 weeks	184
7 days	74	5 weeks	126
8 days	65	6 weeks	115
9 days	50	7 weeks	99
10 days	45	8 weeks	87
11 days	39	9 weeks	69
12 days	41	10 weeks	83
13 days	35	11 weeks	82
14 days	39	12 weeks	74
15 days	27	3 months	244
16 days	31	4 months	177
17 days	31	5 months	144
18 days	30	6 months	115
19 days	28	7 months	88
20 days	33	8 months + and Unknown	429
21 days	35		

The table above is illustrated in the chart below.



## Treatment injury

ACC has provided cover for treatment injuries since 1 July 2005. The treatment injury provisions replaced the medical misadventure provisions of the Accident Compensation Act 2001, to bring it more in line with the no-fault nature of the scheme.

A treatment injury is a personal injury caused as a result of seeking or receiving medical treatment from, or at the direction of, 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.

When considering treatment injury data, it is important to note that the number of 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 ACC website contains further information on treatment injury [www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/treatment-safety](http://www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/treatment-safety).

A full overview of treatment injury in public and private surgical hospitals and general practice settings is available at [www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf](http://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf).