

# Official Information Act Request

Covid Vaccination Injury Analysis - December 2021

Reference IPA-5312

## Question

Please provide data for all covid related vaccination claims including death and side affects also including age, gender and ethnicity.

Please also provide me with data on deaths related to covid vaccine and successful injury claims stating the injured persons age, gender and ethnicity. The time it took for the injury to occur after receiving the covid vaccine dose and if it was a first dose or second dose.

Can you please advise how many claims ACC is dealing with due to adverse reactions to the Cominarty injection?

Recently there was an article in one of media outlets the New Zealand Herald, you provide an update of the statistic of Covid cases work related, and vaccine injuries. These Stats only take us up to the 10th September, I am now requesting a further update to the 10 of October 2021. Could you please provide an update on the following stats:

1. Pfizer vaccine injuries accepted
2. Vaccine injuries declined?
3. Vaccine injuries still pending?
4. How many ACC vaccine injury deaths has accepted/dismissed by the Corporation?

These figures would be helpful at keeping our Database up to date. Also I am advising the vaccine injured on how to make a claim, and also advising if they don't have a claim, but I always advise people to talk to their GPs first.

Can I have a breakdown of ACC claims relating to treatment/adverse effects to the COVID-19 vaccine since January 2021 broken down by month, DHB, Age (5 year age bands are acceptable), ethnicity, permanence of effect, and clinical nature of effect?

Can this please be in Excel spreadsheet format.

Can you please advise the following associated with Covid vaccine adverse affects or harm claims (minor, serious, death or otherwise), if any:

Total number of reports/claims to ACC (categorised by adverse affect/harm type) AND for each:

Total of claim outcomes for each category (pending, declined, granted etc).

How many ACC claims have been made for AEFIs and/or injuries related to the COVID-19 vaccine In total for the year 2021 including reports made up until 12 Oct 2021? How many of these claims have been accepted? How many are still being processed? And how many have been declined? Could you also please provide raw data and/or statistics inclusive of age, type of injury, and dates reported?

## Background information about treatment injury data

Before responding to your request, we would first like to provide you with some background information about treatment injuries.

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.

## Context

Treatment injury (TI) data is available from 1 July 2005, when treatment injury provisions came into law.

The ACC website contains further information on treatment injury <https://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 <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/ACC7971-Supporting-Treatment-Safety-2021.pdf>.

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.

## COVID-19 vaccine related treatment injury claims

The data below was extracted on 2 December 2021 for treatment injury claims lodged with ACC between 18 February 2021 (when New Zealand began COVID-19 vaccinations) and 16 October 2021, 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), or included the terms *covid* or *Pfizer* and *vacc*. 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.

## 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.

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.

## Data

The treatment injury data provided below was extracted on 20 December 2021 and includes claims lodged between 18 February 2021, when New Zealand began Covid vaccinations, and 18 December 2021.

During this period ACC has received 1,460 claims for injuries relating to the Covid vaccination. 519 claims have been accepted, 381 have been declined and 560 are yet to be decided. The following tables break down these numbers by the sex, age and ethnicity of the claimants.

Comirnaty had until very recently been the only Covid vaccine that has been used as part of New Zealand's vaccination response but more recently the Astra Zeneca Covid-19 vaccine has also been used. A small number of claims have been received following administration of the Astra Zeneca Covid-19 vaccine but the vast majority of the claims reported below relate to the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine.

### Sex

Sex	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
Female	385	259	366	1,010
Male	134	122	194	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,460</b>

The table above shows that females are far more likely than males to have lodged a claim for a Covid vaccination treatment injury. Claims for female clients represent 69% of claims lodged. This compares to 51% of Covid vaccination doses given.<sup>1</sup>

### Age Band

Age Band	Accepted	Declined	Pending Decision	Total
12-14	7	--	--	21
15-19	26	11	21	58
20-24	33	28	35	96
25-29	37	24	46	107
30-34	50	29	69	148
35-39	51	34	58	143
40-44	57	42	56	155
45-49	66	39	71	176
50-54	43	37	54	134
55-59	45	41	49	135
60-64	35	37	32	104
65-69	29	14	25	68
70-74	14	16	20	50
75-79	11	10	8	29
80-84	8	10	6	24
85 plus	7	<4	<4	--
Unknown age	0	0	<4	<4
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,460</b>

Claims have been received across all age bands.

<sup>1</sup> Source: [https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid\\_vaccinations\\_14\\_12\\_2021\\_update.xlsx](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid_vaccinations_14_12_2021_update.xlsx)

## Ethnicity

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<b>Pending Decision</b>	<b>Total</b>
Māori	48	24	61	133
Pacific Peoples	22	16	20	58
Asian	49	43	34	126
European	364	259	397	1,020
Other/Unknown	36	39	48	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,460</b>

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

## Dose

ACC has asked lodging providers to indicate whether the vaccination leading to the claim was a first, second or third/booster dose. Whilst over 40% have provided this information it has been provided as free text and nearly 60% 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 or second dose or whether this wasn't clear from the description given. Third and booster vaccinations currently represent a small number of claims so have been included in the unspecified figures.

<b>Dose</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<b>Pending Decision</b>	<b>Total</b>
First	85	81	87	253
Second	143	101	129	373
Unspecified/Third	291	199	344	834
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,460</b>

## 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 20 December 2021.

<b>Primary Injury</b>	<b>All Accepted Claims</b>
Allergic Reaction	141
Adverse Drug Reaction	58
Anaphylactic Reaction	55
Contusion	51
Sprain	49
Infection	31
Cellulitis	24
Cardiac injury	17
Nerve Damage	10
Bursitis	7
Other	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>

## Severity of Injuries

To date, no claims have been lodged with ACC which have resulted in a fatal injury.

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 1 December 2021.

<b>Payments to 1 December 2021</b>	<b>Number of Accepted Claims</b>
No payment to date	160
Up to \$100	171
Over \$100 to \$500	145
Over \$500 to \$1,000	12
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000	17
Over \$5,000 to \$10,000	6
Over \$10,000 to \$50,000	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>

43 out of 519 accepted claims had resulted in payments of over \$500 by 1 December 2021. 160 accepted claims had yet to receive a payment by 20 December 2021.

#### 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 and by the date on which the claim was lodged with ACC. 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.

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

<b>Month (2021)</b>	<b>Number of Claimed Vaccinations</b>	<b>Number Lodged</b>
February - March	11	5
April	61	20
May	85	56
June	69	62
July	94	48
August	228	110
September	324	240
October	332	297
November	180	387
December <sup>1</sup>	76	235

<sup>1</sup>December is partial month to 18 December 2021.

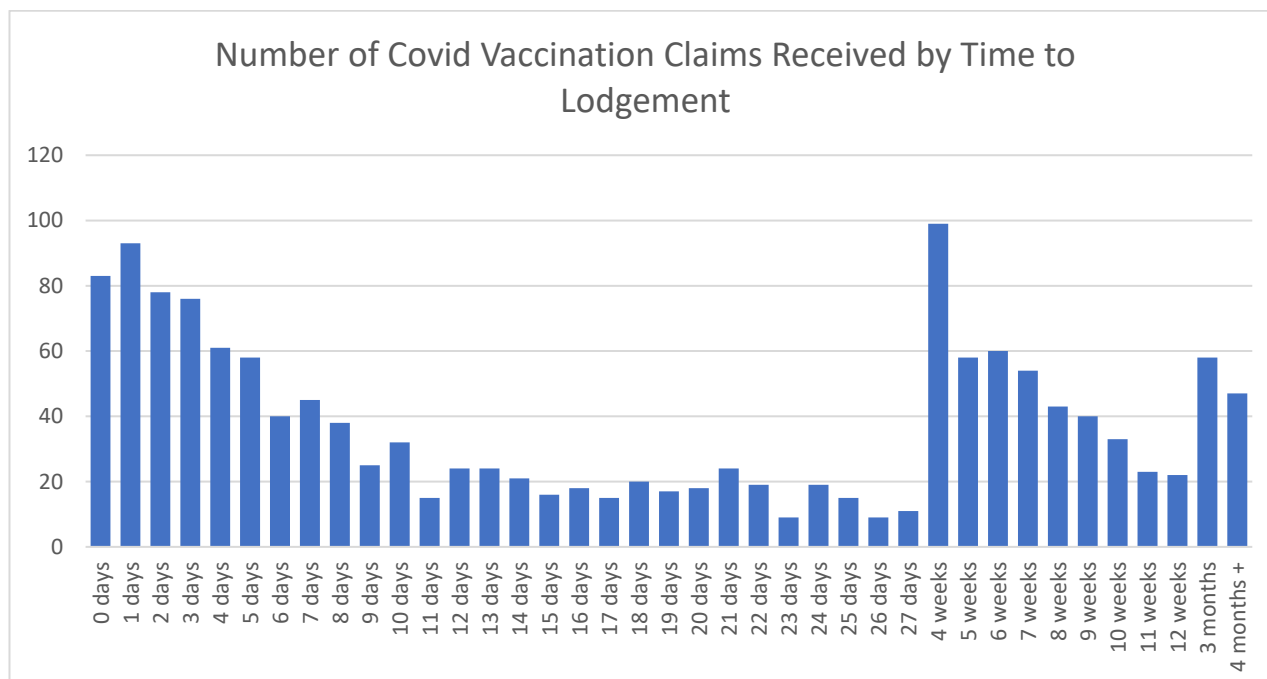
1,159 (79%) of the Covid vaccination injury claims received to date have been received since the beginning of September and many have not been assessed for cover. At this stage, it is difficult to provide meaningful data on the persistency of any injuries sustained.

## 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	83	20 days	18
1 days	93	21 days	24
2 days	78	22 days	19
3 days	76	23 days	9
4 days	61	24 days	19
5 days	58	25 days	15
6 days	40	26 days	9
7 days	45	27 days	11
8 days	38	4 weeks	99
9 days	25	5 weeks	58
10 days	32	6 weeks	60
11 days	15	7 weeks	54
12 days	24	8 weeks	43
13 days	24	9 weeks	40
14 days	21	10 weeks	33
15 days	16	11 weeks	23
16 days	18	12 weeks	22
17 days	15	3 months	58
18 days	20	4 months +	47
19 days	17		

The table above is illustrated in the chart below.



## 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.

<b>District Health Board Region</b>	<b>DHB of Treatment</b>	<b>DHB of Residence</b>
Auckland	94	123
Bay of Plenty	21	73
Canterbury	34	136
Capital & Coast	40	96
Counties Manukau	12	120
Hawkes Bay	14	45
Hutt Valley	16	49
Lakes	4	23
Mid Central	24	58
Nelson Marlborough	22	56
Northland	17	42
South Canterbury	8	13
Southern	42	133
Tairāwhiti	<4	13
Taranaki	24	65
Waikato	66	168
Wairarapa	5	15
Waitematā	31	176
West Coast	4	--
Whanganui	16	43
Overseas	<4	0
Unknown	963	<4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,460</b>

The DHB of Treatment is often not confirmed until the claim is decided hence the large number of claims recorded with no known DHB of Treatment.