

11 August 2023

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-026483

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2023, advising that you were exploring the impact that skin tears in the elderly have on the population, and asking for the following information:

1. *The number of skin tear claims over the past 12-24 months? (whichever timeframe is easier).*
2. *The cost of these claims to ACC.*

Due to the nature of your request, we are responding to it under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Skin tear data

ACC holds two sets of data relevant to skin tear claims, one set related to skin tear injuries caused by a personal injury/accident (PICBA claims) and another for skin tear injuries related to treatment (treatment injury claims). As such, we have provided two sets of skin tear claims information, one for each claims type.

Summary of data in the attached Appendix

Please find information on skin tear injuries in the attached appendix. This includes:

- Table 1 – skin tear injuries caused by accident, new claims and active claims (claims and costs by age 60+)
- Table 2 – skin tear injuries caused by accident, new claims (claims by age group)
- Table 3 – skin tear claims caused by treatment injury, new claims (claims by age group)
- Table 4 – skin tear claims caused by treatment injury, active claims (claims and costs by age 60+)

When reviewing this information, please refer to the comments provided below and the notes in the appendix.

There are three broad categories of costs (entitlements) a claim could receive:

- *Compensation* (weekly compensation for lost earnings, lump sums and death benefits)
- *Treatment* (initial hospital treatment and on-going primary and secondary treatment)
- *Rehabilitation* (physical rehabilitation and various support services)

Payment data relating to this request are limited to services purchased directly by ACC (cost figures exclude Public Health Acute Services payments).

Claims for skin tear injuries

There is additional complexity in identifying claims for skin tear injuries, as skin tears are not classified using a specific injury or diagnosis code. Due to the methods used to identify skin tear claims, the information provided on the number and cost of skin tear related injury claims should be considered to be indicative only.

PICBA skin tear claims

The data is provided for all accident claims (excluding treatment injuries) and has been extracted based on the accident description including the words 'skin tear.' The accident description is a free-text field where

the treatment provider provides a description of the accident based on information from the client.,It is not mandatory to complete, and the level of detail provided can vary from claim to claim.

Treatment injury skin tear claims

Treatment injury claims for skin tears have been identified by searching through ACC's treatment injury database. Claims were counted in the dataset if the primary or secondary injury were recorded as one of the following injuries:

- Skin Abrasion
- Skin Damage/Injury/Tear
- Laceration
- Laceration/tear

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

Privacy

We have withheld low value claim counts where the number is less than 4. We have taken this measure to ensure that individuals cannot be inadvertently identified from statistical information we release. This decision has been made for privacy reasons under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. We consider the public interest in making the information available does not outweigh the reasons to withhold.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public

ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Sara Freitag
Acting Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Notes

- The data provides skin tear injuries lodged with ACC between 1 January 2020 and 23 July 2023
- Age is based on client's age at the time of claim lodgement.
- Claims managed by an Accredited Employer have been excluded as ACC holds limited data about these claims.
- *New claims* is the count of claims that ACC lodged in the specified period. The lodgement date may be any date after the accident occurred
- *Active claims* is the count of claims for which ACC made a payment in the specified period. The claim may have been lodged in the specified period or any previous period
- Individual claims will be counted as active in each year it received a payment. Therefore, a single claim may be counted as an active claim in more than one year
- Data was extracted on 4 August 2023, and may differ if re-run at a later date.

Table 1: Number of new claims, active claims and total costs (excluding GST) for skin tear injuries

Lodgement Calendar	New Claims		Active Claims		Active Claims costs	
	0-59	60+	0-59	60+	0-59	60+
2020	221	6,264	207	6,232	\$315,059.09	\$3,615,071.72
2021	242	7,012	241	6,923	\$314,216.76	\$4,069,397.30
2022	229	7,300	215	7,093	\$253,848.60	\$5,470,646.62
2023 (YTD)	184	5,021	188	5,175	\$187,092.86	\$3,206,791.84

Table 2: Number of new claims for skin tear injuries, by age group.

Age Group	2020	2021	2022	2023(YTD)
0 to 59 Years of age	221	242	229	184
60 to 64 Years of age	112	104	152	95
65 to 69 Years of age	234	295	273	199
70 to 74 Years of age	545	599	648	437
75 to 79 Years of age	930	1,092	1,050	726
80 to 84 Years of age	1,358	1,459	1,616	1,164
85 to 89 Years of age	1,532	1,732	1,674	1,165
90 Years and older	1,553	1,731	1,887	1,235
Grand Total	6,485	7,254	7,529	5,205

Notes

- Treatment Injury data includes claims decided between 1 January 2021 and 9 August 2023.
- The treatment injury data was extracted on 9 August 2023.

Table 3: Number of new treatment injury claims for skin tears, by age group and decision calendar year

Age Group	2021		2022		2023 (YTD)	
	Accepted	Declined	Accepted	Declined	Accepted	Declined
0-59	101	12	109	20	49	4
60-64	17	0	16	4	10	<4
65-69	23	<4	24	<4	11	<4
70-74	25	4	24	<4	8	<4
75-79	30	4	35	<4	24	<4
80-84	32	4	39	<4	14	<4
85 plus	79	<4	78	<4	27	0
Total	307	30	325	34	143	10

Table 4: Number of active claims and total costs (excluding GST)

Calendar Year	Active Claims		Total Costs	
	0-59	60+	0-59	60+
2021	79	153	\$55,273	\$141,767
2022	98	192	\$184,218	\$323,940
2023 (YTD)	61	112	\$81,732	\$255,849