

14 April 2020

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Tēnā koe Jan

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-004442

Thank you for your request of 31 March 2020, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please advise how many covered injuries and what they are, that have been caused by surgery to insert a pacemaker between 2010 and the present date

Background about treatment injury claims

As you will be aware from previous responses, ACC has provided cover for Treatment Injuries since 1 July 2005. For further background information about treatment injury claims, I refer you to our response of 23 July 2019 (GOV-000495).

Notes about the data provided

The data provided was extracted for accepted treatment injury claims related to pacemaker surgery, where the cover decision was made between 1 January 2010 and 30 March 2020. The data is provided in calendar years. It was extracted on 4 April 2020 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Claims related to pacemaker surgery

Claims related to pacemaker surgery have been identified where the procedure resulting in the covered injury was identified as *cardiac pacemaker*. The figures do not include other cardiac procedures that may have involved the use of temporary pacemakers/temporary pacing wires, for instance coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) procedures.

Text search methods were also used to identify some claims. As such, it is possible that some pacemaker surgery claims may not be included in the data provided. Therefore, the figures should be considered indicative only.

The tables provided

Between 1 January 2010 and 30 March 2020, ACC has accepted 145 treatment injury claims related to cardiac pacemaker surgery. Table 1 shows the number of accepted claims by the year the cover decision was made. Table 2 shows the number of accepted claims by primary injury group. *Other injuries* include perforations of muscle/blood vessels, migration of wires and skin damage.

Table 1: Accepted claim count for treatment injuries resulting from pacemaker surgery by calendar year

Year	Claim count
2010	5
2011	7
2012	8
2013	7
2014	16
2015	17
2016	16
2017	20
2018	28
2019	17
2020*	4
Total	145

*to 30 March 2020

Table 2: Accepted claim count for treatment injuries resulting from pacemaker surgery, by primary injury group

Primary injury group	Claim count
Infection	49
Pneumothorax	21
Haematoma	18
Venous Thromboembolism/Femoral Artery Thrombosis	11
Nerve Damage/Injury	7
Cardiac Injury/Damage	7
Strain/Sprain	5
Damage/Malfunction to Prosthetics/Implant	5
Other Injuries	22

How to contact us

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood
Manager Official Information Act Services
 Government Engagement & Support