

23 August 2017

David Lawson
fyi-request-6343-cad3dd96@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lawson

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2017 asking the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I refer you to the ICD-10 Diagnostic Codes:

*S74.01XA Injury of sciatic nerve at hip and thigh level, right leg, initial encounter, and
S74.01XD Injury of sciatic nerve at hip and thigh level, right leg, subsequent encounter
S74.01XS Injury of sciatic nerve at hip and thigh level, right leg, sequela*

OIA Request:

I respectfully request your assistance in confirming the corresponding equivalent Diagnostic Read Codes that apply to the above named ICD-10 Diagnostic Codes.

I note that Government Services recently confirmed (<https://fyi.org.nz/request/6269/response/20925/attach/3/0050390%20David%20Lawson%20response%20letter.pdf>) that ACC have an ACC Read Code F350 which covers Sciatic Nerve Lesion, however I am interested to know whether ACC have a more specific ACC Read Code that narrows the sciatic nerve lesion down to the right hip and thigh region as per the S74.01 range of ICD-10 Diagnostic Codes does.

Our response

We must reiterate our advice provided to you in our letter of 22 August 2017 that Read codes are normally allocated by a health care provider at time of lodgement of a claim with ACC. As well as the distinction that exists under the Act between a request for information already known and held by an agency, versus a request for an agency to form an opinion or provide an explanation of comment and thus create new information to answer a request.

With these two points in mind, we are not in a position to provide you with a specific equivalent Read code for each of the ICD-10 Diagnostic codes you list, as above, as they relate to detailed specific injury scenarios. We have interpreted your request as requiring ACC to form an opinion and determine Read codes for three detailed and different hypothetical situations rather than requesting information held by ACC. This decision complies with our obligations under the Act.

The most appropriate way to ascertain the best Read code for a particular injury is when all details are recorded by the health care provider and a claim is lodged and accepted by ACC. The Read codes specific to an individual's situation would either have already been provided

upon claim lodgement by that health care provider or be determined or adjusted when further information became available.

The list of Read codes provided to you in the same letter mentioned above (dated 22 August 2017), in conjunction with the Read codes you have already been provided, may assist you with selecting a possible Read code for each scenario the Diagnostic codes set out.

In the event that the specific sciatic injuries you outline relate to a specific client's claim with ACC, rather than a hypothetical situation, upon claim lodgement and acceptance an ACC case manager, or equivalent, would assess the Read code for that client's injury.

Queries or concerns

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Engagement and Support, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our decision and response. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143*.

Yours sincerely

OIA Services, Government Engagement and Support