



26 October 2018

David Lawson
fyi-request-8804-10d77a1b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lawson

Ref: 0052867

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request of 3 October 2018, where you asked the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Official Information Request 1:

I welcome the Corporation's provision to me under the Official Information Act confirmation in PDF format of all previous and current ACC read codes and read code descriptions used by ACC and treatment providers that have included, and or still include the word/injury class/term "strain".

Official Information Request 2:

I welcome the provision by the Corporation of the Corporation's historical and current definitions of both a "sprain" injury and a "strain" injury in the context of the provision of cover under the previous and current ACC Acts and the ensuing assessment, clinical read code classification overseen by the Corporation for the purposes of treatment and rehabilitation of the two distinct and separate injury classes.”

Our response

Request 1

In response to this question we refer you to our previous email and attachment sent 12 February 2018 (Ref: 0051382), where ACC provided you with a copy of the ACC6343 Read Code reference list.

As previously noted in our letter dated 15 May 2017 (Ref: 0049820), there is a page on the ACC website dedicated to read codes. This page can be seen here: www.acc.co.nz/providers/lodge-and-manage-claims/PRV00037.

It should be noted that Read Code lists are created and maintained outside of ACC and providers access these directly. ACC's Clinical Services team does not have any different information than what is in the ACC6343.

Request 2

ACC recognises that Read Codes use the terms “sprain” and “strain”. Providers have the discretion to pick the Read Code they feel best matches the diagnosis of the patient for whom they are reporting an injury likely caused by an accident. ACC accepts all Read Code diagnoses provided at face value. Such diagnoses are quite generic in nature and ACC recognises that providers may use these terms interchangeably. ACC does not have a position of associating a different type of injury to either a “sprain” or a “strain”. Further clinical assessment over time or the use of imaging may result in a provider changing these diagnoses to a more specific term. For example, ‘sprain of knee’ many become ‘medial collateral ligament sprain’ or even ‘medial meniscal injury’.

Queries or concerns

If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact us via email at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

You also have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response, by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Government Engagement & Support