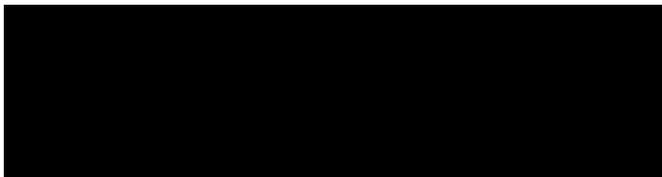


21 June 2022



Re: Official Information Request – Vaccine Related ED Visit Data – Auckland DHB Ref. 20220526-1231

I refer to your official information request, partially transferred to us by the Ministry of Health on 24 May 2022, seeking the following information (your questions 1,2,3,5,8,9,10 and 11):

1. **All hospital Emergency room visits in the last 24 months with a patient complaining of heart issues, where the patient has claimed, as written in their notes that their issues are related to the vaccine.**
2. **All acute Myocarditis, Pericarditis and tachycardia admissions post covid diagnosis**
3. **All acute Myocarditis, pericarditis and tachycardia admissions where the patient has claimed their issue happened post vaccination**
5. **The number of ambulance call outs to sporting events for heart and breathing issues in the last 12 months and then the same figures in the last consecutive 5 years.**
8. **The number of ambulance admissions to emergency departments for heart and breathing or neurological issues that have been referred to in any hospital notes as anxiety since the roll out began and the comparative figures for the last 5 years.**
9. **The number of walk in admissions to emergency departments where a Dr has written anxiety on the discharge notes and the comparative figures for the last 5 years**
10. **The number of hospital emergency departments visits where Anxiety has been deemed as playing a role in the last 12 months and the comparative figures for the last 5 years**
11. **The number of hospital emergency room visits where notes have referred to the person's 'Strong immune response' post covid 19 vaccination**

Response

1. **All hospital Emergency room visits in the last 24 months with a patient complaining of heart issues, where the patient has claimed, as written in their notes that their issues are related to the vaccine.**

We are partially refusing this part of your request because we do not code presentations in our emergency departments with the information requested. This means we are not able to extract the diagnosis data requested without reviewing individual patient notes. Manually reviewing the notes of all patients seen by these is not feasible. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of five years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

However, we can and have searched our emergency department electronic discharge summary diagnoses for 'heart' or 'card.' (as the abbreviation used for cardiac) and 'vaccine'. This is the result.

Admit year	Number of events
2021	22
2022	12

2. All acute Myocarditis, Pericarditis and tachycardia admissions post Covid diagnosis

The table below is patient events that had a coded diagnosis of Myocarditis, Pericarditis or Tachycardia with a positive Covid result recorded any time prior to admission. Please note only patient events longer than three hours are coded.

Admit year	Number of events
2020	1
2021	5
2022	37

3. All acute Myocarditis, pericarditis and tachycardia admissions where the patient has claimed their issue happened post vaccination

We are refusing this part of your request because we do not code presentations in our emergency departments with the information requested. As for our response to question 1, we have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

4. The number of ambulance call outs to vaccination centres including Drs clinics since the roll out began

5. The number of ambulance call outs to sporting events for heart and breathing issues in the last 12 months and then the same figures in the last consecutive 5 years .

8. The number of ambulance admissions to emergency departments for heart and breathing or neurological issues that have been referred to in any hospital notes as anxiety since the roll out began and the comparative figures for the last 5 years.

We are refusing this part of your request because we do not hold this information and have no grounds for believing that another agency would hold it. We do so citing section 18 (g) (1) and (ii) of the Official Information Act.

9. The number of walk in admissions to emergency departments where a Dr has written anxiety on the discharge notes and the comparative figures for the last 5 years

The table below is emergency department visits where the electronic discharge summary diagnoses included anxiety where the arrival mode was patients own transport. 2022 figures are to end of April.

Admit year	Number of events
2016	202
2017	209
2018	236
2019	207
2020	259
2021	216
2022	55

10. The number of hospital emergency departments visits where Anxiety has been deemed as playing a role in the last 12 months and the comparative figures for the last 5 years

The table below is emergency department visits where the electronic discharge summary diagnoses included anxiety – includes all arrival modes. 2022 figures are to end of April.

Time period	Number of events
May 2016 - Apr 2017	307
May 2017 - Apr 2018	311
May 2018 - Apr 2019	321
May 2019 - Apr 2020	308
May 2020 - Apr 2021	368
May 2021 - Apr 2022	260

11. The number of hospital emergency room visits where notes have referred to the person's s 'Strong immune response' post Covid 19 vaccination

It is not feasible to review patient notes individually for phrases. We are partially refusing this part of your request because we do not code presentations in our emergency departments with the information requested. For the same reasons set out in our response to question 1, we have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

However, we can provide the data below which is the number of emergency room visits where the patient had a coded diagnosis of COVID-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use. Please note only patient events longer than three hours are coded.

Admit year	Number of events
2021	154
2022	49

We trust you find this information useful.

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

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Dotchin". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Margaret" and the last name "Dotchin" clearly legible.

Margaret Dotchin
Acting Chief Executive
Auckland District Health Board