

2 February 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2024034984

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 15 January 2024. Each part of your request is responded to below:

s 9(2)(a) I would ask you direct what are the Changes in reporting that would cause double ups you refer to in your OIA Answer to my questions."

In August 2023, there was a change in the way serious adverse events/reactions were coded and counted. This was changed to ensure that New Zealand reports and events are coded in a way that aligns with best practice international guidelines.

Prior to August 2023, a single case report (which may have one or more serious adverse events/reactions) would be coded as one serious report. After August 2023, each individual adverse event/reaction would be counted. For example, if a case reports five serious adverse events/reactions, this would be counted as five events. Therefore, the number of serious adverse reactions/events will be greater than the number of cases. The number of cases/reports are not counted more than once.

"I only asking to clarify because when my son goes in an ambulance or to hospital (he has chronic pericarditis since 4 hours after his shot now 2 years ago His last ambulance ride was October 2023). So, each time I update his CARM report. I update it on his same AEFI number where I can also upload hospital records to be of assistance in your investigations of vaccine injury.

He's had 5 separate visits to A and E in the last two years, so this is updated on the same AEFI number

Would that be counted as 5 reports on the same number?"

An individual report describes the events that happened after taking a medicine in an individual. Each case/report is only counted once, even when follow up is submitted. If the case is reported by more than one reporter and there is enough information to determine that the report involves the same person medicine and events as already reported, this case will only be counted once. However, the number of events/reactions associated with the case may change. If the individual takes a different medicine and has a reaction this would be another case.

“How many of those 20559 are repeat reports and what are the ages of the people. My son is 26. So, I am interested to know how many are young.”

I have interpreted your question to mean how many of these reports were duplicates. Medsafe does review each individual report to ensure duplicates are detected and are not counted twice. This is important when follow up information is received, or there are reports being submitted from different reporters. However, we cannot guarantee that all duplicates have been identified as some reports do not contain enough information to match with previous reports.

“Also, I found it very hard to search the link you provided, so can you tell me directly how many reports deaths between Nov 2022 and December 2023, due to the covid vaccine are currently under investigation or have been reported in that period and are you able to give ages on those deaths.”

During the period of 1 November 2022 to 31 December 2023, there were nine cases received reporting a fatal outcome. None of these cases reported events that were assessed as being related to vaccination. Please note that this does not mean the person involved died in this time period, as reports can be made at any time after the events.

The ages of the individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing information and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
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Medsafe