Request for Information

Solutions to Reduce the Incidence and Severity of Wound Infections

RFI released: 05 12 2016
Submissions due: 01 02 2017

Accident Compensation Corporation
ACC Corporate Office, Justice Centre, 19 Aitken Street, Wellington 6140
Purpose of the RFI

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gain a more detailed understanding of the supplier market and the range of solutions that may be available.

This RFI is for information purposes only. It will not be evaluated, will not be used to create a shortlist and will not result in a contract award. However, it is an excellent opportunity to provide early input into a solution that could affect you. The RFI may result in a formal RFx / Notice of Procurement being issued on GETS (www.gets.govt.nz).

This opportunity in a nutshell

The Accident Compensation Act 2001 has, as its overriding goal, to minimise both the overall incidence of injury in the community, and the impact of injury on the community (including economic, social, and personal costs). Claims for treatment injury can only be accepted according to the legislation. The two key provisions are that there must be a physical injury, and this has to be causally related to treatment delivered by one or more registered health professional. However, if the injury is a necessary part or ordinary consequence of the treatment it cannot be accepted as a treatment injury claim.

Preventing or reducing treatment injury is an important goal for ACC and will be achieved through helping the health sector improve the safety of healthcare. The main prevention principle is that potential harm can be identified and mitigated so risk can be reduced to others in the future. It is largely clinicians, their managers and clinical trainers who are best placed to identify and mitigate risk.

What problem we are trying to solve

Infections are the most frequent treatment injury claim. We want to reduce the incidence and severity of wound infections and reduce the cost of ACC treatment injury claims. Treatment injury claims for wound infections have been increasing. They occur in public and private hospitals, outpatient clinics, general practice settings, and others. They are associated with trauma, and a wide range of invasive procedures from minor to major.

Most infection claims are lower impact and low-cost, but a small minority have much greater impact with higher cost and duration. For example, surgical site infections tend to be more expensive - between 2011 and 2015, the costs to ACC for all accepted claims for infection following surgery was $42.6 million.

What we need

The long term plan is for ACC to enter into a long term contract with a suitable supplier who can reduce the incidence and severity of wound infections, resulting in ACC meeting two key outcomes:

1. Reduction in the incidence and severity of wound infections that lead to treatment injury claims
2. Reduction in actual or projected levy rates or Non-Earners’ Account expenditure

However, we can’t do this yet, as we aren’t completely certain of the best approach to reduce the incidence and severity of wound infections. We want to learn about possible options, as well as the benefits, risks and costs of these options. In particular, ACC is after:
• Innovative, low-cost, scalable, practical / feasible, self-sustaining, effective ideas to reduce the severity and incidence of infections occurring in primary care, hospital care, day stay, or community settings
• Impact on two aspects:
  o Indirect impact, which focuses on people’s awareness of a particular treatment injury prevention initiative
  o Direct impact, which measures the number of people affected by the treatment injury prevention intervention
• Align with (and not counteract) work that is already underway, e.g. Health Quality and Safety Commission’s (HQSC) Surgical Site Infection Improvement Programme (SSIIP).

Why should you respond?
This is a unique opportunity to be part of a major New Zealand health initiative that improves patient safety and helps to reduce the incidence and severity of wound infection acquired during treatment. Your ideas and approaches are needed, so ACC can work out which are the most effective ways to invest in treatment injury prevention. We are interested in hearing about small through to big ideas, innovative approaches, and strategies that might build on existing successful ones. The information you provide will inform ACC of options and may impact upon the approach ACC chooses to take.

A bit about us
ACC is the Crown entity set up under the Accident Compensation Act 2001 that manages and delivers New Zealand’s Accident Compensation Scheme. ACC contributes to the Government’s goal of improving New Zealand’s economic performance by reducing the incidence and severity of injury and providing an efficient and comprehensive, no-fault accident insurance scheme that supports injured people to return to work, independence or everyday life as quick and safely as possible.

Next steps
After ACC has processed the information provided in the submissions, we will formulate our next steps, which will likely consist of preparing a business case that sets out ACC’s requirements and available options. If and when the business case is approved, ACC will be able to provide an update on further steps. Our indicative timeframe is:

- Submissions due: 01 02 2017
- Submissions read: 02 02 2017 – 15 02 2017
- Business case prepared: 16 02 2017 – 06 03 2017
- Business case submitted for consideration: 07 03 2017 – 28 03 2017
- Market informed of next steps: 29 03 2017

If you want to become involved, please answer the questions in the embedded Response Template. You don’t need to use the template to respond, but it provides a good indication of the information we would like.
We would greatly appreciate the submission of your response by Wednesday 1 February 2017. You can email your response to TIP_team@acc.co.nz.

Please email us at TIP_team@acc.co.nz if you have any questions. If we think that other interested parties may benefit from the question and answer then we will release this information on GETS after checking with you.

**Terms and conditions**

This RFI is for information purposes only and is not to be construed as representing or creating any binding obligation on ACC to enter into any legal commitment whatsoever or as being any commitment by us to make any purchase of services.

You should identify any parts of your submission that are commercially sensitive. ACC will not, subject to our legal obligations (including under the Official Information Act 1982 and Privacy Act 1993) and our obligations to Parliament, provide commercially sensitive information to any third party, except as follows.

- ACC reserves the right to:
  - Suspend or cancel (in whole or in part) this RFI process and/or the overall process
  - Re-advertise the RFI
  - Vary this RFI by notice on GETS
  - Issue tenders with modified descriptions of service requirements
  - Seek clarification of any aspect or information provided in an RFI response and to seek further information from any party.

This RFI is governed by New Zealand law. The New Zealand courts have exclusive jurisdiction over all matters relating to this RFI.

ACC shall have no liability for any information it provides, for any costs incurred by respondents in relation to their response, for any cost or loss to any respondent, or if this RFI is cancelled, suspended or changed.

ACC respects ownership of intellectual property. It is not ACC’s intention to seek suppliers’ intellectual property and then share this with third parties. Please identify any parts of your submission that contain or relate to your intellectual property.