



ACC offers workplace poisoning denial service: John Monigatti and the ACC Toxicology Panel

[*Editor's note: CORRECTED TITLE: ACC offers workplace poisoning denial service - John Monigatti and the ACC Toxicology Panel. From <https://accforum.org/forums/index.php?/topic/15257-acc-offers-workplace-poisoning-denial-service/> - the editor/webmaster can't even spell poisoning!! ACC is the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation who determine workers' compensation claims for occupational accidents/poisonings etc and have the motto "Prevention Care Recovery". New Zealand Doctor webpage was no longer online as at 1st November 2019]*

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From <https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/in-print/2013/july-2013/17-july-2013/workplace-poisoning-queries-acc%E2%80%99s-business.aspx>

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Workplace poisoning queries ACC's business

GPs are encouraged to contact ACC if patients insist their disease is due to workplace poisoning when advice is to the contrary.

Some of these patients can be obstructive and GPs should transfer the burden to ACC, the agency's Workwise director John Monigatti told delegates at last month's GP CME in Rotorua.

"We don't mind being the bad guys by saying 'no' to patients," Dr Monigatti says.

Dr Monigatti is a member of an ACC toxicology committee - also including occupational physician and academic Des Gorman, occupational physician Bill Glass, neuropsychologist Ralf Schnabel and medical toxicologist Michael Beasley - that studies about eight workplace poisoning cases every four months.

Almost 100 work poisoning claims are resolved between ACC managers and GPs every year, but cases involving persistent patients go to the committee to investigate.

Dr Monigatti says a small but significant number of people can develop an obsession that they have been poisoned at work.

As some of these patients worked 20 to 30 years ago, it can be difficult to investigate as claims rely on memory.

Some patients speculate and link poisons and diseases inappropriately. Others, who are medically aware and more challenging to deal with, link statistically insignificant studies together to support their claim.

There are patients who appreciate the committee, as it makes them feel their opinion is valued.

However, even if most of these patients dislike ACC, someone has to go through and study these claims, Dr Monigatti says.