

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**EXTERNAL BRUISES AND EXTERNAL  
CONTUSIONS**

ICD CODE: 920-924

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **external bruises and external contusions and death from external bruises and external contusions** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting an **external bruise or external contusion or death from an external bruise or external contusion** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) receiving physical trauma to that part of the body to which the **external bruise or external contusion** was sustained not more than 72 hours before the clinical onset of the **external bruise or external contusion**; or
  - (b) the inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the **external bruise or external contusion**.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs 1(a) and (b) must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(b) applies only where:
- (a) the person’s **external bruise or external contusion** was sustained prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **external bruise or external contusion** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.

4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“external bruise”** means capillary hemorrhage immediately below the skin, attracting ICD code 920, 921, 922, 923 or 924, but does not include an injury to an internal organ;

**“external contusion”** means a bruise or haematoma in an external part of the body, attracting ICD code 920, 921, 922, 923 or 924, but does not include an injury to an internal organ;

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1994

The Common Seal of the )  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed to this instrument )  
in the presence of: )

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN