

## Statement of Principles

concerning

### **HERPES ZOSTER**

ICD CODE: 053

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **herpes zoster and death from herpes zoster** 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 **herpes zoster or death from herpes zoster** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) having chicken pox before the clinical onset of herpes zoster; or
  - (b) having Hodgkin's disease at the time of clinical onset of herpes zoster; or
  - (c) having non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the time of clinical onset of herpes zoster; or
  - (d) being in an immuno-compromised state at the time of clinical onset of herpes zoster; or

- (e) having a bone marrow transplant before the clinical onset of herpes zoster; or
  - (f) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for herpes zoster.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(f)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
  3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(f)** applies only where:
    - (a) the person's **herpes zoster** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
    - (b) the relationship suggested between the **herpes zoster** 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:

**“an immuno-compromised state”** means a state where the immune response has been attenuated by administration of immunosuppressive drugs, or by irradiation, certain types of infection, malnutrition, or a malignant disease process;

**“herpes zoster”** means a unilateral vesicular eruption within a dermatome, often associated with severe pain, caused by reactivation of latent *varicella-zoster virus* (VZV) from a dorsal root ganglion, attracting ICD code 053;

**“Hodgkin’s disease”** means a neoplastic disease of the human lymphoid tissues, characterised by the histological presence of Reed-Sternburg cells and symptoms such as fever, night sweats and weight loss, attracting ICD code 201;

**“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;

