

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

ICD CODES: 721.0,721.1, 722.4, 722.71, 722.91

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **cervical spondylosis** and **death from cervical spondylosis** 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 **cervical spondylosis** or **death from cervical spondylosis** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) having been a prisoner of war; or
 - (b) contracting a significant inflammatory joint disease in the cervical spine before the clinical onset of cervical spondylosis; or
 - (c) suffering an intra-articular fracture of the cervical spine before the clinical onset of cervical spondylosis; or
 - (d) having a malalignment of the cervical spine before the clinical onset of cervical spondylosis; or

- (e) suffering a depositional joint disease in the cervical spine before the clinical onset of cervical spondylosis; or
 - (f) suffering a trauma to the cervical spine which has resulted in permanent ligamentous instability before the clinical onset of cervical spondylosis; or
 - (g) suffering a trauma to the cervical spine which has resulted in permanent ligamentous instability before the clinical worsening of cervical spondylosis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(g)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(g)** applies only where:
- (a) the person's **cervical spondylosis** 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 **cervical spondylosis** 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:

“cervical spine” means that part of the spine between the base of the skull and the first thoracic vertebrae, namely C1 to C7;

“cervical spondylosis” means degenerative changes in the cervical spine, including changes in the vertebral body, the intervertebral disc, the ligamentum flavum, the zygapophyseal joints, the intervertebral joints, and the other ligamentous structures of the cervical spine, attracting ICD code 721.0, 721.1, 722.4, 722.71 or 722.91;

“depositional joint disease” means gout, pseudogout, haemochromatosis, Wilson's disease or ochronosis;

“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;

“inflammatory joint disease” means a disease affecting a joint or joints where there is swelling, inflammation and pain that persisted for at least five days;

“intra-articular fracture” means a fracture involving the articular surface of a joint;

“malalignment” means the displacement out of line resulting as the effect of underlying muscle weakness, deformity of other joints, joint dysplasia or disparate leg length.

Dated this day of 1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN