

# Statement of Principles

concerning

## **ACUTE SINUSITIS**

**ICD CODE: 461**

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **acute sinusitis** and **death from acute sinusitis** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **acute sinusitis** or **death from acute sinusitis** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) suffering from a viral respiratory tract infection immediately before the clinical onset of acute sinusitis; or
  - (b) being infected with HIV before the clinical onset of acute sinusitis; or
  - (c) being in an immuno-compromised state before the clinical onset of acute sinusitis; or
  - (d) being intubated with a nasal tracheal or nasal gastric tube for more than 48 hours immediately before the clinical onset of acute sinusitis; or

- (e) suffering from head trauma involving the paranasal sinuses immediately before the clinical onset of acute sinusitis; or
  - (f) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the acute sinusitis.
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 **acute sinusitis** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
    - (b) the relationship suggested between the **acute sinusitis** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
  4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“acute sinusitis”** means an inflammation of the paranasal sinuses lasting for three months or less, due to a viral, bacterial or fungal infection of the sinus, attracting ICD code 461;

**“being infected with HIV ”** means serological evidence of infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attracting ICD codes in the range 42-44;

**“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;

**“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;

**“viral respiratory tract infection”** means an acute infection of the respiratory epithelium by a range of viruses including rhinovirus, coronavirus, influenza virus, causing such illnesses as the common cold, laryngotracheobronchitis, tracheitis, bronchitis and pneumonia.

Dated this *First* day of *June* 1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN