

Statement of Principles

concerning

HEPATITIS D

ICD CODES: 070.42, 070.52

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 **hepatitis D and death from hepatitis D** 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*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **hepatitis D or death from hepatitis D** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) having received a blood transfusion or blood product injection or organ transplant, that was not screened for hepatitis D, more than three weeks before the existence of the evidence of the hepatitis D infection; or
 - (b) having had an injection or dental procedure or surgical procedure (including tattooing) more than three weeks before the existence of the evidence of the hepatitis D infection, and for which the instruments were not sterilised; or

- (c) having had a wound, laceration, or other injury or disease disrupting skin integrity that may have been contaminated by the body fluids of a person not shown to be hepatitis D negative, and that contamination having occurred more than three weeks before the existence of evidence of the hepatitis D infection; or
 - (d) being a parenteral drug user and sharing needles more than three weeks before the existence of the evidence of the hepatitis D infection; or
 - (e) having had unprotected sexual intercourse with a person not proven to be negative for hepatitis D more than three weeks before the existence of the evidence of the hepatitis D infection; or
 - (f) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for hepatitis D.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to (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 **hepatitis D** 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 **hepatitis D** 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:

“blood product injection” means injection with a substance derived from human blood;

“body fluids” means blood, serum, serous discharge, saliva, tears, seminal fluid, bile or vaginal secretions;

“hepatitis D” means an infection with the hepatitis D virus, which is an RNA virus which coinfects with and requires the helper function of the hepatitis B virus (or other hepadnaviruses) for its replication and expression: the hepatitis D virus has a coat of hepatitis D surface antigen, and a genome of single stranded ribonucleic acid, and the infection by this virus attracts an ICD code of 070.42 or 070.52;

