

# Statement of Principles

concerning

## **OPISTHORCHIASIS**

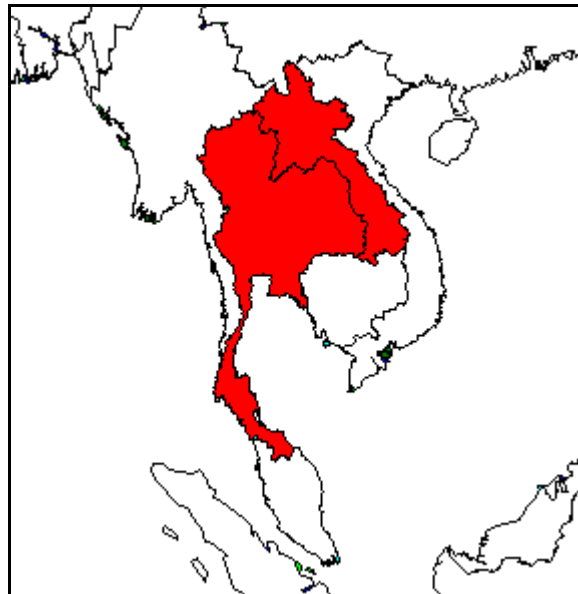
ICD CODE: 121.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **opisthorchiasis and death from opisthorchiasis** 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 **opisthorchiasis or death from opisthorchiasis** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) ingesting raw, undercooked, pickled, or smoked fish from one of the areas that were endemic for the trematodes *Opisthorcis viverrini* or *Opisthorcis felineus*; or
  - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the opisthorchiasis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs 1(a) to 1(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 opisthorchiasis 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 opisthorchiasis 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.

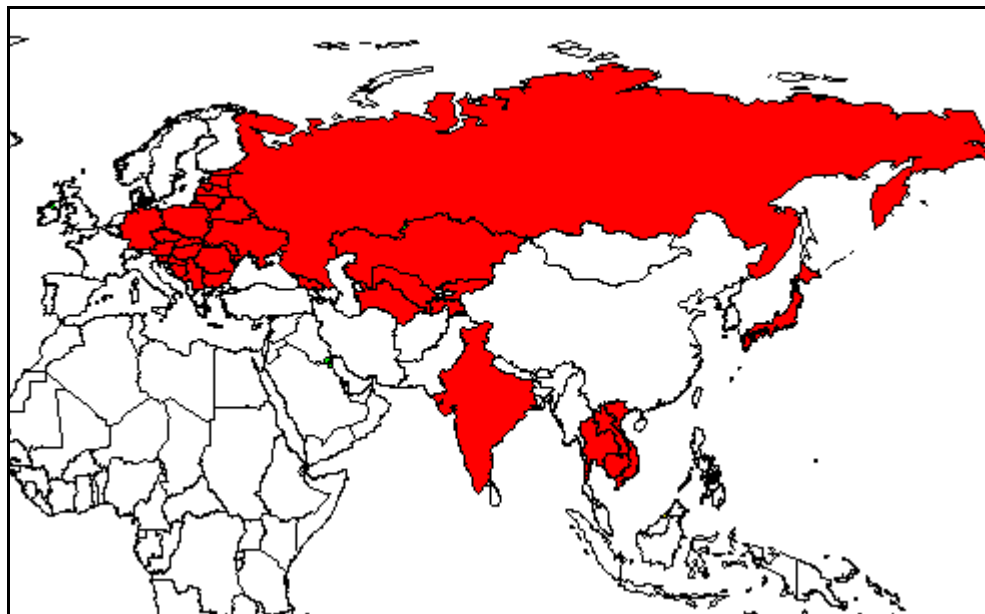
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“areas that were endemic for the trematode *Opisthorcis viverrini*”** are Thailand and Laos;



Note: the shaded areas shown in the map are indications of the areas described in the definition.

**“areas that were endemic for the trematode *Opisthorcis felineus*”** are central and eastern Europe, the states of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, India, Japan, Thailand, and Indo-China;



Note: the shaded areas shown in the map are indications of the areas described in the definition.

**“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;

“**opisthorchiasis**” means an infection of the biliary passages by the trematode (flake) *Opisthorcis viverrini* or *Opisthorcis felinus*, attracting ICD code 121.0.

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