

**Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning  
**GIANT CELL ARTERITIS**

**ICD CODE: 446.5**

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **giant cell arteritis** and **death from giant cell arteritis**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**giant cell arteritis**” means chronic inflammatory disease of the large and medium-sized systemic arteries, and which includes temporal or cranial arteritis, attracting ICD code 446.5.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **giant cell arteritis** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces.

**Factors that must be related to service**

4. Subject to clause 6, the factor set out in the paragraph in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

**Factors**

- 5. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **giant cell arteritis** or **death from giant cell arteritis** with the circumstances of a person’s relevant service is:
  - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for giant cell arteritis.

**Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

- 6. Paragraph 5(a) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, giant cell arteritis where the person’s giant cell arteritis was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person’s relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

**Other definitions**

- 7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“**ICD code**” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5;

“**relevant service**” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service.

Dated this *Eighteenth* day of *June* 1996

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

KEN DONALD  
 CHAIRMAN