

REVOKED

Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

ROTATOR CUFF SYNDROME

ICD CODES: 726.1, 726.2

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 **rotator cuff syndrome** and **death from rotator cuff syndrome**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**rotator cuff syndrome**" means a disorder of the musculotendinous cuff, biceps tendon and associated bursae surrounding the glenohumeral joint, attracting ICD code 726.1 or 726.2. This does not include frozen shoulder.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **rotator cuff syndrome** 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 factors set out in at least one of the paragraphs in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

5. The factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **rotator cuff syndrome** or **death from rotator cuff syndrome** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
- (a) suffering trauma to the shoulder on the affected side within the 30 days immediately before the clinical onset of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (b) being occupationally required to work with the arm on the affected side at or above the point of the shoulder for at least a quarter of the time spent working over a continuous period of at least 90 days, part of which is within the 30 days immediately before the clinical onset of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (c) undergoing haemodialysis treatment for a period of at least one year before the clinical onset of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (d) suffering trauma to the shoulder on the affected side within the 30 days immediately before the clinical worsening of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (e) being occupationally required to work with the arm on the affected side at or above the point of the shoulder for at least a quarter of the time spent working over a continuous period of at least 90 days part of which is within the 30 days immediately before the clinical worsening of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (f) undergoing haemodialysis treatment for a period of at least one year before the clinical worsening of rotator cuff syndrome; or
 - (g) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for rotator cuff syndrome.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs **5(d) to 5(g)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, rotator cuff syndrome where the person's rotator cuff syndrome 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:

“haemodialysis treatment” means the removal of certain elements from the blood by virtue of the difference in the rates of their diffusion through a semipermeable membrane by means of a haemodialyzer;

“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.

“trauma to the shoulder” means an injury caused by the force of an extraneous physical or mechanical agent that causes the development, within 24 hours of the injury being sustained, of acute symptoms and signs of pain, tenderness, and altered mobility or range of movement of the joint, attracting ICD code 812.0, 812.1, 880 or 959.2. The acute symptoms and signs must have lasted for a period of at least three days immediately after they arose, unless medical intervention has occurred. Where medical intervention for the injury has occurred (eg splinting, supporting in a sling, anti-inflammatory medication, surgery), and there is evidence relating to the extent of injury and treatment, such evidence may be considered.

Dated this *Sixteenth* day of *January* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN