

Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

ACHILLES TENDONITIS OR BURSITIS

ICD CODE: 726.71

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 **Achilles tendonitis or bursitis** and **death from Achilles tendonitis or bursitis**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**Achilles tendonitis or bursitis**" means a condition characterised by painful inflammatory and/or degenerative changes in the Achilles tendon, or inflammation of the paratendinous tissues, or inflammation and thickening of the deep retrocalcaneal bursa about the Achilles tendon, but not inflammation and thickening of the superficial subcutaneous adventitial bursa, attracting ICD code 726.71.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that **Achilles tendonitis or bursitis** 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 **Achilles tendonitis or bursitis** or **death from Achilles tendonitis or bursitis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) engaging in vigorous physical activity requiring movement of the ankle joint, for a total of at least ten hours within the 14 days immediately before the clinical onset of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (b) suffering from a systemic arthritic disease at the time of the clinical onset of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (c) undergoing a renal transplant within the ten years immediately before the clinical onset of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (d) engaging in vigorous physical activity requiring movement of the ankle joint, for a total of at least ten hours within the 14 days immediately before the clinical worsening of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (e) suffering from a systemic arthritic disease at the time of the clinical worsening of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (f) undergoing a renal transplant within the ten years immediately before the clinical worsening of Achilles tendonitis or bursitis; or
 - (g) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Achilles tendonitis or bursitis.

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, Achilles tendonitis or bursitis where the person's Achilles tendonitis or bursitis 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;

“systemic arthritic disease” means:

- (i) Reiter's syndrome, ICD code 099.3; or
- (ii) psoriatic arthritis, ICD code 696.0; or
- (iii) ankylosing spondylitis, ICD code 720.0; or
- (iv) Behcet's syndrome, ICD code 136.1; or
- (v) rheumatoid arthritis, ICD code 714.0-714.3;

“vigorous physical activity requiring movement of the ankle joint” means physical activity that involves the repetitive application of impact loading stresses through the Achilles tendon, such as occurs in running, jogging or jumping.

Dated this *Eighteenth* day of *April* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN