

# Amendment of Statement of Principles

concerning

## **OSTEOARTHRISIS**

**ICD-9-CM CODE: 715**

### Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority amends, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), Instrument No.42 of 1998, (Statement of Principles concerning osteoarthritis), by:
  - A. omitting the factor (k) in clause 5 and inserting in its place the following factor:

“(k) for osteoarthritis of the wrist, elbow or metacarpophalangeal joint, being occupationally required to use a hand-held pneumatic tool for at least 10 years before the clinical onset of osteoarthritis in that joint; and where such use of a hand-held pneumatic tool has ceased, the clinical onset of osteoarthritis has occurred within the 25 years immediately following such activity ; or”;
  - B. omitting the factor (w) in clause 5 and inserting in its place the following factor:

“(w) for osteoarthritis of the wrist, elbow or metacarpophalangeal joint, being occupationally required to use a hand-held pneumatic tool for at least 10 years before the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis in that joint; and where such use of a hand-held pneumatic tool has ceased, the clinical worsening of osteoarthritis has occurred within the 25 years immediately following such activity ; or”;

- C. deleting the definition of “trauma to a joint” in clause 8 and inserting after the definition of “terminal event” in clause 8 the following definition:

“**trauma to a joint**’ means a discrete joint injury that causes the development, within 24 hours of the injury being sustained, of acute symptoms and signs of pain, and tenderness, and either altered mobility or range of movement of the joint. These acute symptoms and signs must last for a period of at least ten days following their onset; save for where medical intervention for the trauma to that joint has occurred, where that medical intervention involves either:

- (a) immobilisation of the joint or limb by splinting, sling or similar external agents; or
- (b) injection of corticosteroids or local anaesthetics into that joint; or
- (c) aspiration of that joint; or
- (d) surgery to that joint”;

- D. inserting after the definition of “weight bearing joint of the lower limb” in clause 8, the following clause:

**“Application**

9. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120B of the Act applies.”.

2. The amendments made by this instrument apply to all matters to which Instrument No.42 of 1998 and section 120B of the Act apply.

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *January* 1999

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN