

REVOKED

Statement of Principles
concerning
PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

ICD CODES: 531, 532, 533, 534

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that, on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **peptic ulcer disease and death from peptic ulcer disease** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **peptic ulcer disease or death from peptic ulcer disease** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) smoking at least ten cigarettes per day at the time of the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (b) infection with *Helicobacter pylori* prior to the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (c) administration to the person of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs not more than seven days prior to the clinical onset of the peptic ulcer disease; or

- (d) experience of severely stressful circumstances for at least six months immediately preceding the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (e) smoking at least 10 cigarettes per day at the time of the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (f) administration to the person of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs not more than seven days prior to the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (g) experience of severely stressful circumstances for at least six months immediately preceding the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
 - (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management of peptic ulcer disease
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paras **1(a) to 1(h)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(e) to 1(h)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **peptic ulcer disease** 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 **peptic ulcer disease** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, US Department of Health and Human Services, Pub. No 80-1260;

“infection with *Helicobacter pylori*” may be presumed if the person was, for at least five years, living in a community with:

- (i) overcrowded conditions with poor hygiene; and
- (ii) shared eating facilities and utensils; and
- (iii) limited opportunities for bathing;

“non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs” means anti-inflammatory drugs which do not contain steroids (for example, aspirin, Brufen, BTZ, Clinoril, Indocid, Voltaren and Fenac);

