

# REVOKED

## Statement of Principles

concerning

# CHRONIC AIRFLOW LIMITATION

ICD CODE: 496

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 **chronic airflow limitation and death from chronic airflow limitation** 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, **chronic airflow limitation or death from chronic airflow limitation** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) smoking at least 15 pack-years before clinical onset of chronic airflow limitation; or
  - (b) suffering from asthma for at least five years immediately before the clinical onset of chronic airflow limitation; or
  - (c) smoking at least 15 pack-years before the clinical worsening of chronic airflow limitation; or

- (d) suffering from asthma for at least five years immediately before clinical worsening of chronic airflow limitation; or
  - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic airflow limitation.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
  3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(c) to 1(e)** apply only where:
    - (a) the person's **chronic airflow limitation** 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 **chronic airflow limitation** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraphs 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
  4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“asthma”** means a condition in which there are paroxysmal attacks of bronchospasm resulting in difficulty breathing, attracting ICD code 493;

**“chronic airflow limitation”** means that there has been an irreversible decrease in the ratio of the person's forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV<sub>1</sub>) to the person's forced vital capacity (FVC), of at least 15% of normal for a person of the same height and age (ie, FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC is less than 85%), attracting ICD code 496;

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

**“pack-year”** means 7 300 cigarettes.

Dated this

day of

1994

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN