

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**BUERGER'S DISEASE**  
**(THROMBOANGIITIS OBLITERANS)**

ICD CODE: 443.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **Buerger's disease and death from Buerger's disease** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **Buerger's disease or death from Buerger's disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) smoking 20 cigarettes per day or its equivalent in tobacco products, for at least three years before the clinical onset of Buerger's disease; or
  - (b) smoking for three pack years before the clinical worsening of Buerger's disease; or
  - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Buerger's disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

