

Statement of Principles

concerning

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF BONE OR ARTICULAR CARTILAGE

ICD CODE: 170

**Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)**

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** and **death from malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** 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* (the Act), that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** or **death from malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) undergoing diagnostic scanning with a colloidal solution of thorium dioxide (Thorotrast) before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage; or
 - (b) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the affected site before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage; or

- (c) being occupationally involved in the use of radium before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage; or
 - (d) suffering from Paget's disease before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the malignant neoplasm of bone or of articular cartilage.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraph **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(e)** applies only where:
- (a) the person's **malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“course” means five or more episodes of treatment within a 125 day period;

“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;

“malignant neoplasm of bone or articular cartilage” means a primary malignant tumour of any non-haematopoietic cellular elements indigenous to bone including bone forming tumour (osteosarcoma), cartilage forming tumour (chondrosarcoma), giant cell tumour and malignant fibrous histiocytoma, attracting ICD code 170;

“occupationally involved in the use of radium” means working with paint containing radium as, for example, in painting instrumentation with luminescent material;

“Paget's disease” (otherwise known as osteitis deformans) means a disease of bone marked by repeated episodes of bone resorption and new bone formation resulting in weakened deformed bones of increased mass, attracting ICD code 731.0;

“therapeutic radiation” means medical treatment by irradiation to the person with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles.

Dated this **Twenty-first** day of **June**
1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN