

Amendment of Statement of Principles
concerning
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC PROLAPSE

ICD CODES: 722.0, 722.1, 722.2, 722.3, 722.7

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(3)

The Repatriation Medical Authority amends, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), Instrument No.131 of 1996, (Statement of Principles concerning intervertebral disc prolapse), by:

1. omitting paragraph 2(b), and replacing it with the following:

“(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, **“intervertebral disc prolapse”** means protrusion, herniation or rupture of an intervertebral disc of the cervical, thoracic or lumbar spine, causing local pain and stiffness, and may include:

- (i) in the case of cervical disc prolapse - pain and paraesthesia radiating into the upper limbs or;
- (ii) in the case of lumbar disc prolapse - pain and paraesthesia radiating into the lower limbs,

attracting ICD code 722.0, 722.1, 722.2, 722.3 or 722.7.”;

2. omitting the definition of “trauma to the relevant disc” in clause 7, and replacing it with the following:

“trauma to the relevant disc” means an injury to the particular prolapsed intervertebral disc, giving rise to immediate pain, tenderness

and altered mobility or altered range of movement of that part of the spine, which persists for at least two weeks, unless medical intervention has occurred (for example bracing, corticosteroid injection, surgery). Where medical intervention for the injury has occurred, and there is evidence relating to the extent of injury and treatment, such evidence may be considered. Examples of activities or events that may result in trauma to the relevant disc include:

- (i) lifting, pushing or pulling an object weighing more than 10 kg; or
- (ii) jumping from a height, for example, in a parachute jump, or jumping down from a tank; or
- (iii) a fall; or
- (iv) diving into a body of water; or
- (v) participating in sports, for example, football, surfing, gymnastics; or
- (vi) spinal manipulation; or
- (vii) a motor vehicle accident; or
- (viii) a blast explosion; or
- (ix) a physical attack.”.

The amendments made by this instrument apply to all matters to which Instrument No.131 of 1996 and section 120B of the Act apply.

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *November* 1997

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN