

**Determination**

of

**Statement of Principles**  
concerning

**SYMPTOMATIC EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS  
INFECTION**

**ICD CODE: 075**

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

- 2 (a) This Statement of Principles is about **symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection** and **death from symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection**" means a clinical illness compatible with Epstein-Barr virus infection accompanied by serological evidence of recently acquired Epstein-Barr virus infection, attracting ICD code 075.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection** and **death from symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces.

### **Factors that must be related to service**

4. Subject to clause 6, at least one of the factors set out in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

### **Factors**

5. The factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection** or **death from symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) having physical contact involving exchange of oral secretions with an individual infected with Epstein-Barr virus, at least 21 days, but not more than 49 days, immediately before the clinical onset of symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection; or
  - (b) having received a transfusion of blood or blood products, a bone marrow transplantation or other organ transplantation at least 21 days, but not more than 49 days, immediately before the clinical onset of symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection; or
  - (c) suffering from an immunodeficiency state at the time of the clinical worsening of symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection; or
  - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection.

### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

6. Paragraphs 5(c) to 5(d) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection where the person's symptomatic Epstein-Barr virus infection was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

### **Other definitions**

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

**“immunodeficiency state”** means a pathological state where the immune response has been attenuated. Acquired immunodeficiency state occurs during or immediately following the administration of a course of immunosuppressive drugs, or whole body irradiation, and in the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, severe protein-calorie malnutrition, or a systemic malignancy;

**“other organ transplantation”** means transplantation of organs such as kidneys, liver, heart and lungs. It does not include transplantation of avascular donor tissue such as corneal grafts;

**“relevant service”** means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service.

Dated this *Fifth* day of *May* 1998

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN