

Statement of Principles

concerning

CHICKEN POX

ICD CODE: 052.9

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chicken pox and death from chicken pox** 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 **chicken pox or death from chicken pox** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being exposed to the chicken pox virus not more than 30 days before the clinical onset of chicken pox; or
 - (b) being in an immuno-compromised state at the time of clinical onset of chicken pox; or
 - (c) having leukaemia at the time of clinical onset of chicken pox; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chicken pox.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(d)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(d) applies only where:
- (a) the person's **chicken pox** 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 **chicken pox** 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:

“chicken pox” means an infection with *varicella-zoster virus* (VZV) usually accompanied by a generalised vesicular rash and attracting ICD code 052.9, but does not include VZV infections that cause herpes zoster;

“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;

“an immuno-compromised state” means a state where the immune response has been attenuated by administration of immunosuppressive drugs, or by irradiation, certain types of infection, malnutrition, or a malignant disease process;

