

REVOKED

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE**

ICD CODES: 531, 532, 533, 534

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **peptic ulcer disease and death from peptic ulcer 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 **peptic ulcer disease or death from peptic ulcer disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) having been a prisoner of war; or
  - (b) smoking at least ten cigarettes per day at the time of the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (c) infection with *Helicobacter pylori* prior to the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (d) administration to the person of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs not more than 14 days prior to the clinical onset of the peptic ulcer disease; or

- (e) experience of stressful circumstances for at least six months immediately preceding the clinical onset of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (f) smoking at least ten cigarettes per day at the time of the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (g) administration to the person of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs not more than fourteen days prior to the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (h) experience of stressful circumstances for at least six months immediately preceding the clinical worsening of peptic ulcer disease; or
  - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management of peptic ulcer disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(j)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(f) to 1(j)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **peptic ulcer disease** 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 **peptic ulcer disease** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraphs 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:

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, US Department of Health and Human Services, Pub. No 80-1260;

**“infection with *Helicobacter pylori*”** may be presumed if the person was, for at least 180 days, living in a community with:

- (i) overcrowded conditions with poor hygiene; and
- (ii) shared eating facilities and utensils; and
- (iii) limited opportunities for bathing;

**“non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs”** means anti-inflammatory drugs which do not contain steroids (for example, aspirin, Brufen, BTZ, Clinoril, Indocid, Voltaren and Fenac);

