

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**PORPHYRIA CUTANEA TARDA**

ICD CODE: 277.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **porphyria cutanea tarda and death from porphyria cutanea tarda** 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 **porphyria cutanea tarda or death from porphyria cutanea tarda** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam before the clinical onset of porphyria cutanea tarda; or
  - (b) decanting, mixing, applying, or ingesting polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons before the clinical onset of porphyria cutanea tarda; or
  - (c) having psychoactive substance abuse or dependence involving alcohol before the clinical onset of porphyria cutanea tarda; or
  - (d) having active viral hepatitis before the clinical onset of porphyria cutanea tarda; or

- (e) having HIV-1 infection before the clinical onset of porphyria cutanea tarda; or
  - (f) having skin exposed to sunlight before the clinical worsening of porphyria cutanea tarda; or
  - (g) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for porphyria cutanea tarda.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to (g)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(f) and (g)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **porphyria cutanea tarda** 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 **porphyria cutanea tarda** 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:

**“active viral hepatitis”** means infection with Hepatitis A, B, C, D, or E with signs or symptoms or pathological tests indicating active inflammation of the liver, attracting ICD code 70;

**“being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam”** may be said to have occurred only if the person had:

- (a) rendered more than 30 days service on land in Vietnam; or
- (b) regularly eaten fish, fish products, crustaceans, shellfish, or meat from Vietnam; or
- (c) regularly eaten food cooked with water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment, or regularly drunk water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment; or
- (d) regularly inhaled dust in a defoliated area in Vietnam or regularly inhaled herbicide fog in Vietnam; or
- (e) sprayed or decanted herbicides in Vietnam as an occupational requirement;

**“HIV-1 infection”** means serological evidence of infection with human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1, attracting an ICD code in the range 42 to 44 (inclusive);

**“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;

**“polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons”** means chemical compounds containing a benzene ring and multiple chlorine atoms;

**“porphyria cutanea tarda”** means a disease with abnormalities of porphyrin metabolism with dermatological manifestations, attracting an ICD code of 277.1;

**“psychoactive substance abuse or dependence”** means a maladaptive pattern of use, attracting an ICD code of 303 or 304, that is indicated by either:

- (a) continued use of the substance despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent social, occupational, psychological or physical problem that is caused or exacerbated by use of the substance; or
- (b) recurrent use of the substance when use is physically hazardous (for example, driving while intoxicated).

Dated this    day of    1994

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN