

Statement of Principles
concerning
ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

ICD CODE: 720.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **ankylosing spondylitis** and **death from ankylosing spondylitis** 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* (the Act), that the factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **ankylosing spondylitis** or **death from ankylosing spondylitis** with the circumstances of that service, is:
 - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the ankylosing spondylitis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) the factor set out in paragraph **1(a)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(a)** apply only where:
 - (a) the person's **ankylosing spondylitis** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and

(b) the relationship suggested between the **ankylosing spondylitis** 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:

“ankylosing spondylitis” means a chronic, progressive, inflammatory disease of unknown aetiology which primarily effects the small joints of the axial skeleton and sometime involves the peripheral joints and extra articular structures, attracting ICD code 720.0;

“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.

Dated this *Twenty-first* day of *June*
1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN