

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**CHRONIC SINUSITIS**

**ICD CODE: 473**

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chronic sinusitis** and **death from chronic sinusitis** 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 factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **chronic sinusitis** or **death from chronic sinusitis** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) suffering from acute sinusitis immediately before the clinical onset of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (b) suffering from mechanical obstruction of the sinus immediately before the clinical onset of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (c) suffering from a muco-ciliary transport abnormality immediately before the clinical onset of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (d) being infected with HIV immediately before the clinical onset of chronic sinusitis; or

- (e) being in an immuno-compromised state immediately before the clinical onset of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (f) suffering from acute sinusitis immediately before the clinical worsening of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (g) suffering from muco-ciliary transport abnormality immediately before the clinical worsening of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (h) suffering from mechanical obstruction of the sinus immediately before the clinical worsening of chronic sinusitis; or
  - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic sinusitis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraph **1(a) to 1(j)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraph **1(f) to 1(j)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **chronic sinusitis** developed before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **chronic sinusitis** 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:

**“acute sinusitis”** means an inflammation of the paranasal sinuses lasting for three months or less, due to a viral, bacterial or fungal infection of the sinus, attracting ICD code 461;

**“chronic sinusitis”** means inflammation of the paranasal sinuses lasting for at least three months, of infectious (bacterial or fungal) or non-infectious aetiology, characterised by persistence of sinus-related symptoms and persistent radiographic evidence of structural damage to the sinus, attracting ICD code 473;

**“being infected with HIV ”** means serological evidence of infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attracting ICD codes in the range 42-44;

**“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;

**“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;

**“mechanical obstruction of the sinus”** means any obstruction which impairs the sinus drainage and includes tumours of the sinus, deviated nasal septum, foreign bodies in the nasal cavities including shrapnel or surgical appliances, dental roots, enlarged turbinates and bulla ethmoidals;

**“muco-ciliary transport abnormality”** means one of several hereditary disorders characterised by abnormal composition and function of the mucus and cilia of the epithelial cells, including Kartagener's syndrome, cystic fibrosis, Young's syndrome and the Immotile-Cilia syndrome.

Dated this *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