

# Statement of Principles

concerning

## **ALLERGIC RHINITIS**

**ICD CODES: 477.0, 477.8, 477.9**

**Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986**  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **allergic rhinitis and death from allergic rhinitis** 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 **allergic rhinitis or death from allergic rhinitis** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) being exposed to allergens immediately before the clinical onset of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (b) being exposed to allergens immediately before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (c) being in an immuno-compromised state immediately before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (d) undergoing a course of drug therapy involving anti-hypertensive agents immediately before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (e) undergoing a course of drug therapy involving aspirin immediately before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or

- (f) undergoing a course of drug therapy involving propantheline immediately before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (g) suffering from hypothyroidism before the clinical worsening of allergic rhinitis; or
  - (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for allergic rhinitis.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(h)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
  3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1 (b) to 1(h)** apply only where:
    - (a) the person's **allergic rhinitis** 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 **allergic rhinitis** 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:

**“hypothyroidism”** means the deficiency of thyroid activity attracting the ICD codes of 243 or 244;

**“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;

Dated this

day of

1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN