

Statement of Principles
concerning
CAROTID ARTERIAL DISEASE

ICD CODES: 433.10, 442.81

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **carotid arterial disease** and **death from carotid arterial 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* (the Act), that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **carotid arterial disease** or **death from carotid arterial disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) suffering from hypertension before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (b) having a serum total cholesterol level equal to or greater than 8.0 mmol/l before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (c) suffering from diabetes mellitus before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease; or

- (d) smoking at least five cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within 15 years of cessation; or
 - (e) suffering trauma to the neck or the base of the skull within 12 months immediately before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (f) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the neck or the head before the clinical onset of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (g) suffering from hypertension before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (h) having a serum total cholesterol level equal to or greater than 8.0 mmol/l before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (j) suffering from diabetes mellitus before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (k) smoking at least five cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease and where smoking has ceased, the clinical worsening has occurred within 15 years of cessation; or
 - (m) suffering trauma to the neck or the base of the skull within 12 months immediately before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (n) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the neck or the head before the clinical worsening of carotid arterial disease; or
 - (p) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for carotid arterial disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(p)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(g) to 1(p)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **carotid arterial disease** was contracted before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **carotid arterial disease** 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:

“carotid arterial disease” means the occlusion or stenosis of the common, internal and/or external carotid artery due to atherosclerosis, dissection, thrombosis or other pathological process localised to that artery, or aneurysm of the common, internal and/or external carotid artery, attracting ICD code 433.10 or 442.81;

Note:- for carotid arterial disease with evidence of cerebral infarction, attracting an ICD code of 433.11, see Statements of Principles concerning cerebrovascular accident (Instrument Number 326 of 1995).

“course of therapeutic radiation” means treatment by irradiation with alpha, beta, gamma or x-rays;

“diabetes mellitus” means an endocrine disease characterised by:

- (a) a fasting venous plasma glucose concentration of equal to or greater than 7.8 millimoles per litre on at least two separate occasions; or
- (b) a venous plasma glucose concentration equal to or greater than 11.1 millimoles per litre both within two hours and at two hours after ingestion of 75 grams of glucose;

attracting ICD code 250;

“hypertension” means:

- (a) a usual blood pressure reading where the systolic reading is greater than or equal to 140mmHg and/or where the diastolic reading is greater than or equal to 90mmHg; or

(b) where treatment for hypertension is being administered,

attracting an ICD code in the range of 401 to 405 or 642;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5;

“trauma to the neck or the base of the skull” means a penetrating injury or a non-penetrating injury, involving extension or hyperflexion of the neck, and including those resulting in fracture or dislocation of the cervical spine.

Dated this *Twenty-eighth* day of *September* 1995

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN