

REVOKED

Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

PLANTAR FASCIITIS

ICD CODES: 726.73, 728.71

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **plantar fasciitis** and **death from plantar fasciitis**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**plantar fasciitis**" means a painful condition of the subcalcaneal aspect of the foot resulting from inflammation or contracture of the deep fascia of the sole (plantar fascia) with or without calcaneal spur, attracting ICD code 726.73 or 728.71.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **plantar fasciitis** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces.

Factors that must be related to service

4. Subject to clause 6, the factors set out in at least one of the paragraphs in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

5. The factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **plantar fasciitis** or **death from plantar fasciitis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
- (a) suffering a fracture of the calcaneus of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical onset of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (b) suffering trauma to the plantar aspect of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical onset of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (c) suffering a fracture of the calcaneus of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (d) suffering trauma to the plantar aspect of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for plantar fasciitis.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs 5(c) to 5(e) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, plantar fasciitis where the person's plantar fasciitis was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"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;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service;

“trauma to the plantar aspect of the foot” means an injury to the sole of the foot caused by an extraneous physical or mechanical force that causes the development, within 24 hours of the injury being sustained, of acute symptoms and signs of pain, swelling, tenderness, and altered mobility in that foot where such acute symptoms and signs last for a period of at least one week immediately after the injury occurs, unless medical intervention has occurred. Where medical intervention for the injury has occurred (eg. splinting, anti-inflammatory therapy, surgery), and there is evidence relating to the extent of intervention and treatment, such evidence may be considered.

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *March* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN