

Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

ICD CODES: 714.0, 714.1, 714.2, 714.81

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 **rheumatoid arthritis** and **death from rheumatoid arthritis**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**rheumatoid arthritis**” means an adult chronic multisystem disease primarily of the joints, characterised by inflammatory synovitis, symmetrical joint involvement, muscle atrophy, and bone rarefaction, attracting ICD code 714.0, 714.1, 714.2, or 714.81.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **rheumatoid arthritis and death from rheumatoid arthritis** 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 factor set out in the paragraph in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

5. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **rheumatoid arthritis** or **death from rheumatoid arthritis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
 - (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for rheumatoid arthritis.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(a) applies to material contribution to, or aggravation of, rheumatoid arthritis where the person's rheumatoid arthritis 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 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

“relevant service” means:

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

Dated this *Twenty-sixth* day of *September*
1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN