

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

PLANTAR FASCIITIS

ICD-10-AM CODE: M72.2

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.37 of 1996; and
 - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

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), attracting ICD-10-AM code M72.2.

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 and death from 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, at least one of the factors set out 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) running on average at least 10 km/week in the six months immediately before the clinical onset of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (d) being obese at the time of the clinical onset of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (e) suffering from one of the arthritic conditions in the specified list at the time of the clinical onset of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (f) suffering a fracture of the calcaneus of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (g) suffering trauma to the plantar aspect of the affected foot within the year immediately before the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (h) running on average at least 10 km/week in the six months immediately before the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (j) being obese at the time of the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (k) suffering from one of the arthritic conditions in the specified list at the time of the clinical worsening of plantar fasciitis; or
 - (m) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for plantar fasciitis.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs **5(f) to 5(m)** 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.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

Other definitions

8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“arthritic conditions in the specified list” means

- (i) Reiter's syndrome; or
- (ii) ankylosing spondylitis; or
- (iii) psoriatic arthropathy; or
- (iv) other seronegative spondarthritis; or
- (v) gouty arthritis;

“being obese” means having an increase in body weight by way of fat accumulation beyond an arbitrary limit, and due to a cause specified in the Repatriation Medical Authority's Statement about the causes of “being obese” signed by the Chairman of the Authority on 16 August 1996.

The measurement used to define “being obese” is the Body Mass Index (BMI).

The BMI = W/H^2 , where:

W is the person's weight in kilograms and
H is the person's height in metres.

“Being obese” is where the BMI is 30 or greater. This definition excludes weight gain not resulting from fat deposition such as gross oedema, peritoneal or pleural effusion, or muscle hypertrophy. “Being obese” develops when energy intake is in excess of expenditure for a sustained period of time.

For a factor to be included as a cause of “being obese” it must have resulted in a significant weight gain, of the order of a 20% increase in baseline weight, and in association with a BMI of 30 or greater;

“death from plantar fasciitis” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s plantar fasciitis;

“ICD-10-AM code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), effective date of 1 July 1998, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86451 340 3;

“relevant service” means:

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

“terminal event” means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- a) pneumonia;
- b) respiratory failure;
- c) cardiac arrest;
- d) circulatory failure; or
- e) cessation of brain function.

Application

9. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Twenty-eighth* day of *January* 2000

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN