

**Revocation and Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning  
**GIANT CELL ARTERITIS**  
**ICD-10-AM CODES: M31.5, M31.6**  
*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.85 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 **giant cell arteritis** and **death from giant cell arteritis**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**giant cell arteritis**” also known as temporal arteritis, cranial arteritis or Horton’s disease or syndrome means a form of chronic inflammatory disease of the large and medium-sized arteries, most commonly involving the external carotid artery system attracting ICD-10-AM code M31.5 or M31.6.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. After examining the available sound medical-scientific evidence the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that the only factor that may be related to the cause of or material contribution to or aggravation of **giant**

**cell arteritis or death from giant cell arteritis** and which can be related to relevant service is that set out in clause 4.

#### **Factors that must be related to service**

4. The factor that must as a minimum exist in relation to the circumstances of a person's relevant service causing or materially contributing to or aggravating **giant cell arteritis or death from giant cell arteritis** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for giant cell arteritis.

#### **Inclusion of Statements of Principles**

5. 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**

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“death from giant cell arteritis”** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's giant cell arteritis;

**“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), Second Edition, effective date of 1 July 2000, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 271 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**

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

Dated this *Twelfth* day of *September* 2001

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN