

Statement of Principles

concerning

HEPATITIS E

ICD CODES: 070.43, 070.53

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **hepatitis E and death from hepatitis E** 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*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **hepatitis E or death from hepatitis E** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) drinking water from an unhygienic water supply not more than 80 days before the clinical onset of hepatitis E; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for hepatitis E.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(b)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(b)** applies only where:
- (a) the person's **hepatitis E** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **hepatitis E** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“hepatitis E” means infection with a ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus resulting in an inflammation of the liver and serology of hepatitis E infection, attracting ICD code 070.43 or 070.53;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision*, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 1994

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

KEN DONALD
 CHAIRMAN