



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles
concerning
PSORIATIC ARTHROPATHY
No. 5 of 2012

for the purposes of the
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
and
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004

Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning psoriatic arthropathy No. 5 of 2012.

Determination

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No. 27 of 1998 concerning psoriatic arthropathy; and
 - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
 - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **psoriatic arthropathy** and **death from psoriatic arthropathy**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**psoriatic arthropathy**" means a seronegative chronic inflammatory arthritis characterised by synovitis, enthesitis, dactylitis and spondylitis, occurring in association with skin or nail psoriasis.
 - (c) Psoriatic arthropathy attracts ICD-10-AM code M07.0 to M07.3.
 - (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**psoriatic arthropathy**" is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

Basis for determining the factors

4. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **psoriatic arthropathy** and **death from psoriatic arthropathy** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

Factors that must be related to service

5. Subject to clause 7, at least one of the factors set out in clause 6 must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

6. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **psoriatic arthropathy** or **death from psoriatic arthropathy** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
 - (a) having psoriasis at the time of the clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (b) having a discrete injury to the affected joint, sufficient to warrant medical consultation, in the one month before the clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (c) being treated with efalizumab at the time of clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for psoriatic arthropathy.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

7. Paragraph 6(d) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, psoriatic arthropathy where the person's psoriatic arthropathy was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

8. 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 as in force from time to time.

Other definitions

9. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"death from psoriatic arthropathy" in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's psoriatic arthropathy;

