

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

ACUTE MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

ICD CODES: 205.0, 206.0, 207.0, 207.2, 208.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.36 of 1994, Instrument No.270 of 1995, and Instrument No.120 of 1996; and
 - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **acute myeloid leukaemia** and **death from acute myeloid leukaemia**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**acute myeloid leukaemia**” means a morphologically heterogenous group of malignant neoplasms, attracting ICD codes 205.0, 206.0, 207.0, 207.2 or 208.0, derived from myelocytic or myelogenous haematopoietic stem cells, characterised by diffuse replacement of the bone marrow with proliferating leukaemic cells and the presence of leukaemic cells in the peripheral blood and extramedullary tissues, and of rapid clinical progression.

Note: For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, this definition includes the conditions known as acute granulocytic leukaemia, acute myeloblastic leukaemia, acute myelocytic leukaemia, acute myelogenous leukaemia, acute myelomonocytic leukaemia, acute myelosclerotic leukaemia, acute monocytic leukaemia, acute erythroleukaemia, acute megakaryocytic leukaemia and also includes acute blast cell

leukaemia in which the cell lineage cannot be determined, but excludes acute exacerbation of chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Basis for determining the factors

3. On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that **acute myeloid leukaemia and death from acute myeloid leukaemia** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces.

Factors that must be related to service

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

Factors

5. The factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **acute myeloid leukaemia** or **death from acute myeloid leukaemia** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia, where the first exposure occurred more than one year before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (b) being occupationally exposed to external ionising radiation for a period or periods of time totalling at least six months, where the first exposure occurred more than ten years before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (c) being heavily occupationally exposed to benzene for a period or periods of time totalling at least five years, where the first exposure occurred more than ten years before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (d) being occupationally involved in the handling of AVGAS or petroleum products containing benzene greater than 5% by volume for one month or more, where the first exposure occurred more than ten years before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (e) being occupationally involved in the handling of AVGAS or petroleum products containing benzene greater than 1% by volume for one year or more, where the first exposure occurred more than ten years before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia; or

- (f) receiving a course of chemotherapy before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia, where the course of chemotherapy commenced at least one year before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia, and, where that therapy has ceased, the clinical onset occurred within twenty years of cessation; or
- (g) smoking at least 15 pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, before the clinical onset of acute myeloid leukaemia, and, where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset occurred within five years of cessation; or
- (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for acute myeloid leukaemia.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(h) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, acute myeloid leukaemia where the person's acute myeloid leukaemia was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act refers.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“a course of chemotherapy” means treatment of a malignant or proliferative disorder with the regular systemic administration of:

- (i) an alkylating agent, such as nitrogen mustard, ethyleneimine derivatives, alkyl sulphates, nitrosoureas, triazenes, cyclophosphamide and platinum compounds; or
- (ii) a topoisomerase II inhibitor, such as etoposide, cisplatin, anthracyclines, mitoxantrone, razoxane;

“a course of therapeutic radiation” means one or more fractions (treatment portions) of ionising radiation administered with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

“being heavily occupationally exposed to benzene” means regularly inhaling benzene vapour, ingesting liquid benzene or having skin contact with benzene or benzene containing products at ambient concentrations exceeding one part per million;

“being occupationally exposed to external ionising radiation” means working in an environment which entails protracted low-level exposure to

external radiation, such as radiographers or any X ray technicians, X-ray assistants or workers involved in the production of nuclear power, manufacture of nuclear weapons, enrichment and processing of nuclear fuel, or reactor or weapons research;

“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;

“pack-year” means 7 300 cigarettes, or 1 460 cigars, or 7.3 kg of pipe tobacco;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) eligible war service (other than operational service); or
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service).

Application

8. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120B of the Act applies.

Dated this *Ninth* day of *December* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN