

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
POLYCYTHAEMIA VERA

ICD-10-AM CODE: D45

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.67 of 1995; 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 **polycythaemia vera** and **death from polycythaemia vera**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**polycythaemia vera**”, also known as polycythaemia rubra vera, means a chronic myeloproliferative disorder, characterised by abnormal proliferation of haematopoietic bone marrow elements, resulting in an absolute increase in red cell mass, an excess of platelets and white blood cells, and splenomegaly, attracting ICD-10-AM code D45. This definition excludes relative polycythaemia and polycythaemia resulting from hypoxaemia.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **polycythaemia vera** and

death from polycythaemia vera 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, the factor set out in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

5. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **polycythaemia vera** or **death from polycythaemia vera** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:

- (a) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for polycythaemia vera.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(a) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of polycythaemia vera where the person's polycythaemia vera 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:

“death from polycythaemia vera” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's polycythaemia vera;

“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 *October* 1999

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN