

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE BREAST

ICD CODES: 174, 175

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **malignant neoplasm of the breast and death from malignant neoplasm of the breast** 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 **malignant neoplasm of the breast or death from malignant neoplasm of the breast** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) where the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast occurred under the age of 45 years; regularly ingesting oral contraceptives containing at least 50µg of oestrogen for a period of at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (b) where the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast occurred under the age of 45 years; regularly ingesting oral contraceptives containing less than 50µg of oestrogen, or a combination of oestrogen and progesterone, for a period of at least

ten years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or

- (c) being nulliparous before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (d) undergoing a course of hormone replacement medication consisting of oestrogen unopposed by progesterone for a period of at least one year before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (e) where there has been at least a ten year latency period between the commencement of the exposure to the ionising radiation and the onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the area of the breast or chest before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (f) being occupationally exposed to ionising radiation before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast where there has been at least a ten year latency period between the commencement of the exposure to the ionising radiation and the onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (g) being within 4 kilometres of the epicentre of the atomic explosions on the cities of Hiroshima or Nagasaki in the week following the explosion on those cities; or
 - (h) where the person is a female aged at least 50 years at the time of the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; being obese before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (j) consuming at least 160 kg of alcohol over a period of 15 years before and continuing until the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the breast; or
 - (k) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the breast.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(k)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(k) applies only where:
- (a) the person's **malignant neoplasm of the breast** 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 **malignant neoplasm of the breast** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.

4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“course of therapeutic radiation” means treatment by irradiation with alpha, beta, gamma or x-rays.

“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;

“being obese” means having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30, where:

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{W}{H^2}$$

and where:

W is the person's weight in kilograms; and

H is the person's height in metres.

(for example, a person would be obese if the person weighed 120 kg and was 1.8 metres in height: $\text{BMI} = 120 \div (1.8 \times 1.8) = 37.04$)

source:- NH & MRC report of the 98th session. Canberra AGPS 1984.
NH & MRC report of the 100th session. Canberra AGPS 1984.
NHF Australia. Risk Factor Prevalence Study Survey 3. Canberra NHF & AIH, 1990

“malignant neoplasm of the breast” means a malignant neoplasm of the cells of the breast, attracting ICD code 174 or 175.

