

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

SEIZURES

ICD CODE: 780.3

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.322 of 1995; and
 - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **seizures** and **death from seizures**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**seizures**” means a disorder characterised by an episode or episodes of paroxysmal, excessive, hypersynchronous and self-limited abnormality of neurological activity due to abnormalities in the electrical activity in the brain, occurring acutely in response to metabolic or cerebral insult, with each episode of neurological dysfunction being termed a seizure, attracting ICD code 780.3.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that **seizures** 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 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 as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **seizures** or **death from seizures** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) suffering from psychoactive substance abuse or dependence involving alcohol for at least the five years immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (b) suffering from an electrolyte imbalance immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (c) suffering from a disorder of glucose metabolism immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (d) suffering from acute necrosis of the liver immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (e) suffering from Alzheimer's disease immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (f) suffering from acute renal failure immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (g) undergoing treatment by dialysis immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (h) undergoing a course of treatment with at least one of the drugs from the specified list of drugs immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (j) suffering from malignant hypertension immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (k) suffering from the sudden withdrawal of a chronically administered sedative drug within the two weeks immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
 - (m) suffering from an hypoxic-ischaemic cerebral insult within the six months immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or

- (n) suffering from cerebral trauma within the six months immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (o) suffering from at least one of the cerebrovascular diseases from the specified list of cerebrovascular diseases within the six months immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (p) suffering from central nervous system (CNS) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (q) suffering from an intracranial space-occupying lesion immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (r) suffering from viral encephalitis immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (s) suffering from bacterial meningitis immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (t) suffering from cerebral cysticercosis, cerebral schistosomiasis, cerebral echinococcosis (hydatid cyst disease), cerebral malaria, or cerebral toxoplasmosis immediately before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (u) suffering from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) before the clinical onset of seizures; or
- (v) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for seizures.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(v) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, seizures where the person's seizures were 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.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“acute necrosis of the liver” means acute hepatic failure due to massive hepatic necrosis (fulminant hepatitis) resulting from viral hepatitis, drug hypersensitivity or exposure to hepatotoxins, causing rapid shrinkage of the liver and encephalopathy, attracting ICD code 570;

“acute renal failure” means a kidney disorder characterised by rapid decline of glomerular filtration rate and retention of nitrogenous waste products that may complicate a wide variety of diseases, attracting ICD code 403.01, 403.11, 403.91, 404.02, 404.03, 404.12, 404.13, 404.92, 404.93, 584, 669.3, 958.5 or 997.5;

“a disorder of glucose metabolism” means hypoglycaemia or diabetes with hyperosmolar coma, attracting ICD code 250.2, 250.3, 250.8, 251.0, 251.1, 251.2 or 251.3;

“Alzheimer's disease” means a dementia that is characterised histopathologically by an abundance of neurofibrillary tangles and senile (neuritic) plaques in limbic structures, the cerebral cortex and certain subcortical nuclei; with a slowly progressive deterioration in memory and other cognitive functions, attracting ICD code 331.0.

“an electrolyte imbalance” means hypernatraemia, hyponatraemia, hypocalcaemia, hypercalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia or hypophosphataemia, attracting ICD code 252.0, 252.1, 268, 276.0, 276.1, 275.2, 275.3 or 275.4;

“bacterial meningitis” means inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord caused by bacteria, common types of which are *Haemophilus influenzae m.*, *meningococcal m.*, *pneumococcal m.*, and *tuberculous m.*, attracting ICD code 003.21, 013.0, 036.0, 091.81, 094.2, 098.82 or 320.

“central nervous system (CNS) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)” means a chronic, remitting, relapsing inflammatory multisystem disorder of connective tissue of unknown aetiology involving the brain or meninges, attracting ICD code 710.0;

“cerebral cysticercosis” means infection of brain parenchyma with encysted *Taenia solium* larvae, attracting ICD code 123.1;

“cerebral echinococcosis” means infection of brain parenchyma with encysted *Echinococcus granulosus*, *E. multilocularis*, or *E. vogeli* larvae, attracting ICD code 122.3, 122.6 or 122.9;

“cerebral malaria” means a diffuse symmetric encephalopathy due to infection of brain parenchyma with *Falciparum malaria*, attracting ICD code 084.9;

“cerebral schistosomiasis” means infection of brain parenchyma with a parasite of the genus *Schistosoma*, attracting ICD code 120;

“cerebral toxoplasmosis” means infection of brain parenchyma with parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, attracting ICD code 130.0 or 130.8;

“cerebral trauma” means:

- (a) any injury to the head that penetrates the dura mater, or
- (b) any head injury that results in skull fracture, or
- (c) any blunt head injury that causes at least 30 minutes loss of consciousness or that causes post-traumatic amnesia, or
- (d) any injury that results in intracranial haemorrhage, or
- (e) any surgical procedures which involve craniotomy,

attracting ICD code 800, 801, 803, 804, or an ICD code in the range 850.1-850.8, or 851-854;

“dialysis” means a medical procedure which normalises the electrolyte, solute and fluid balance of a patient by removing certain elements from the blood by diffusion through a semipermeable membrane, including haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis;

“human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)” means infection with one of the human retroviruses HIV-1 or HIV-2 which are of the lentivirus subfamily and are characterised by a genome containing, as well as the genes, *gag*, *pol* and *env*, at least six other genes (*tat*, *rev*, *nef*, *vif*, *vpr*, *vpu* (HIV-1 only) and *vpx* (HIV-2 only) that encode for proteins which are involved in the regulation of HIV expression, attracting ICD code 042 or 079.53;

“hypoxic-ischaemic cerebral insult” means a loss of blood flow to the brain leading to acute cerebral anoxia, attracting ICD code 348.1 or 997.0;

“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 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5;

“intracranial space occupying lesion” means one of the following pathological entities occupying a delineated area within the cranial cavity, including:

- (a) primary or secondary malignant neoplasms of the brain or meninges; or
- (b) benign neoplasms of the brain or meninges; or
- (c) intracranial abscess; or

- (d) subdural or extradural abscess; or
- (e) tuberculoma of the brain; or
- (f) cerebral cysts; or
- (g) idiopathic space occupying lesion,

attracting ICD code 013.2, 013.3, 191, 192.1, 198.3, 198.4, 225.0, 225.2, 237.5, 237.6, 239.6, 324.0, 324.9 or 348.0;

“malignant hypertension” means a severe hypertensive state characterised by papilloedema of the ocular fundus, retinal haemorrhages and exudates, cardiac decompensation and declining renal function, attracting ICD code 401.0, 402.0, 403.0, 404.0 or 405.0;

“psychoactive substance abuse or dependence involving alcohol” means a maladaptive pattern of use of alcohol, that is indicated by either:

- (a) continued use of the substance despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent social, occupational, psychological or physical problem that is caused or exacerbated by use of the substance; or
- (b) recurrent use of the substance when use is physically hazardous (for example, driving while intoxicated),

attracting ICD code 303 or 305.0;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service;

“specified list of cerebrovascular diseases” means the following:

- (a) intracerebral haemorrhage; or
- (b) subarachnoid haemorrhage; or
- (c) non traumatic intracranial haemorrhage; or
- (d) embolic stroke; or
- (e) haemorrhagic stroke; or
- (f) cerebral infarction or cerebral embolism; or
- (g) stroke due to precerebral arterial disease; or
- (h) cerebrovascular accident,

attracting ICD code 430, 431, 432, 433.01, 433.11, 433.21, 433.31, 433.81, 433.91, 434, or 436;

“specified list of drugs” means:

- (a) anaesthetics: ether, halothane, ketamine, methohexitone, althesin, cocaine, lidocaine; or
- (b) analeptics: nikethamide, theophylline and its derivatives, ephedrine; or
- (c) analgesics: pethidine, dextropropoxyphene; or
- (d) anti-arrhythmics: disopyramide, lignocaine; or
- (e) antibiotics: benzylpenicillin, carbenicillin, oxacillin, ampicillin, cycloserine, isoniazid, nalidixic acid, quinolones; or
- (f) anticonvulsants in overdose: phenobarbitone, phenytoin, ethosuximide; or
- (g) antipsychotics: chlorpromazine, lithium; or
- (h) antidepressants: amitriptyline, imipramine, mianserin, maprotiline, tricyclic antidepressants; or
- (j) contrast media: meglumine carbamate, meglumine iothalamate, metrizamide; or
- (k) miscellaneous: D-penicillamine, baclofen, hyperbaric oxygen, folate, piperazine, cyclosporin, interferon;

“viral encephalitis” means viral infection and inflammation of the brain parenchyma, attracting ICD code 045, 046, 049.8, 049.9, 052.0, 054.3, 055.0, 056.01, 072.2, 323.0, or 323.6, or an ICD code in the range 062-064;

“withdrawal of a chronically administered sedative drug” means a substance specific organic mental syndrome following the cessation of use or reduction in intake of psychoactive substances that had been regularly used, including anticonvulsants, alcohol, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, glutethimide, meprobamate, attracting ICD code 291.0, 291.3, 291.8 or 292.0.

Application

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

Dated this *Twenty-first* day of *May* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN