

Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
OBSTRUCTIVE NEPHROPATHY

ICD CODES: 591, 593.5, 593.89, 599.6

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

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

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**obstructive nephropathy**” means a disorder characterised by functional and pathological changes in the kidney resulting from complete or partial obstruction of the urinary tract, and which includes the conditions of hydronephrosis or hydroureter, attracting ICD code 591, 593.5, 593.89 or 599.6.

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 **obstructive nephropathy** 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, **obstructive nephropathy** or **death from obstructive nephropathy** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) suffering complete obstruction of the renal pelvicalyceal system or ureter on the affected side, for a continuous period of at least 7 days before the clinical onset of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (b) suffering partial obstruction of the renal pelvicalyceal system or ureter on the affected side, for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical onset of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (c) suffering obstruction of the bladder outlet for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical onset of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (d) suffering obstruction of the urethra for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical onset of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (e) suffering complete obstruction of the renal pelvicalyceal system or ureter on the affected side, for a continuous period of at least 7 days before the clinical worsening of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (f) suffering partial obstruction of the renal pelvicalyceal system or ureter on the affected side, for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical worsening of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (g) suffering obstruction of the bladder outlet for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical worsening of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (h) suffering obstruction of the urethra for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the clinical worsening of obstructive nephropathy; or
 - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for obstructive nephropathy.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs 5(e) to 5(j) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, obstructive nephropathy where the person's obstructive nephropathy 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:

"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;

"obstruction of the bladder outlet" means a blockage to the flow of urine resulting from pathology such as:

- (i) bladder calculi, ICD code 594.1; or
- (ii) bladder tumours, ICD code 188, 198.1, 223.3, 236.7 or 239.4; or
- (iii) neurogenic bladder, ICD code 344.61 or 596.5; or
- (iv) pelvic masses; or
- (v) bladder pathology resulting from cyclophosphamide therapy, ICD code 595.89; or
- (vi) bladder neck obstruction, ICD code 596.0; or
- (vii) pelvic or abdominal trauma (including surgery); or
- (viii) vesicoureteral reflux, ICD code 593.7;

"obstruction of the urethra" means a blockage to the flow of urine resulting from pathology such as:

- (i) urethral calculi, ICD code 594.2, 594.8 or 594.9; or
- (ii) tumours, ICD code 189.3, 198.1, 223.81 or 236.99; or
- (iii) benign prostatomegaly, ICD code 222.2 or 600; or
- (iv) prostatic carcinoma, ICD code 185, 198.82 or 236.5; or
- (v) urethral stricture, ICD code 593.4 or 598; or
- (vi) pelvic or abdominal trauma (including surgery);

"obstruction of the renal pelvicalyceal system or ureter" means a blockage to the flow of urine at the level of the upper urinary tract, resulting from pathology such as:

- (i) calculi, ICD code 592.0, 592.1; or

- (ii) blood clots, ICD code 593.4; or
- (iii) sloughed renal papillae, ICD code 593.4; or
- (iv) tumours of the renal pelvis, ureter or bladder, ICD code 188, 189.1, 189.2, 198.1, 223.1, 223.2 or 223.3; or
- (v) stricture of the ureter, ICD code 593.3; or
- (vi) genitourinary tuberculosis, ICD code 016.1 or 016.2; or
- (vii) interstitial cystitis, ICD code 595.1; or
- (viii) chronic inflammatory bowel disease, ICD code 555 or 556; or
- (ix) retroperitoneal fibrosis, ICD code 593.4; or
- (x) abdominal and pelvic masses (eg. uterine leiomyoma, benign neoplasm of ovary, malignant neoplasm of ovary, malignant neoplasm of uterus, malignant neoplasm of colon); or
- (xi) surgical ligation of the ureter; or
- (xii) aortoiliac surgery; or
- (xiii) pelvic or abdominal trauma; or
- (xiv) pelvic endometriosis, ICD code 617.3; or
- (xv) urinary schistosomiasis, ICD code 120.0; or
- (xvi) retroperitoneal haematoma, ICD code 568.81;

“relevant service” means:

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

Dated this **Eighteenth** day of **June**
1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN