

Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
IMPOTENCE

ICD CODES: 302.72, 607.84

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 **impotence** and **death from impotence**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**impotence**" means persistent or recurrent failure to initiate an erection or maintain an adequate erection until ejaculation, and excludes transient failure of erection due to fatigue, anxiety, alcohol or drugs, attracting ICD code 302.72 or 607.84.

Note: ICD code 302.72 also covers female psychosexual dysfunction, which is not included in this Statement of Principles.

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 **impotence** 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, **impotence** or **death from impotence** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:

- (a) suffering from a specified psychiatric condition at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (b) smoking at least five pack-years of cigarettes or the equivalent in other tobacco products within a fifteen year period, before the clinical onset of impotence, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within ten years of cessation; or
- (c) suffering from atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (d) suffering from aortic atherosclerotic disease at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (e) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the lower abdomen, pelvis, penis or perineal region within the fifteen years immediately before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (f) suffering from blunt or penetrating trauma to the external genitals, perineum or pelvis, including surgical trauma, within the 90 days immediately before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (g) suffering from damage to the spinal cord or cauda equina within the 90 days immediately before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (h) suffering from a specified endocrinological disorder at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (j) suffering from alcoholic liver disease at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (k) suffering from chronic renal failure at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (m) suffering from diabetes mellitus at the time of clinical onset of impotence; or

- (n) suffering from psychoactive substance abuse or dependence involving alcohol at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (o) undergoing treatment with one or more of the drugs identified in the Schedule for a condition for which the drug cannot be ceased or substituted, at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (p) suffering from priapism before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (q) suffering from Peyronie's disease before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (r) suffering from haemochromatosis before the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (s) suffering from a malignant neoplasm of the reproductive organs at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (t) suffering from a specified neurological disorder at the time of the clinical onset of impotence; or
- (u) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for impotence.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

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

“alcoholic liver disease” means alcoholic fatty liver, acute alcoholic hepatitis, or alcoholic cirrhosis, attracting ICD code 571.0, 571.1, 571.2 or 571.3;

“aortic atherosclerotic disease” means the presence of atherosclerosis in the ascending, arching, or descending aorta (including the thoracic and abdominal aorta), attracting ICD code 440.0;

“a specified endocrinological disorder” means a disorder of the endocrine system resulting in sexual dysfunction, and includes pathology such as:

- (i) Cushing’s syndrome, ICD code 255.0; or
- (ii) acromegaly, ICD code 253.0; or
- (iii) hypogonadism, ICD code 257.2; or
- (iv) testicular hypofunction, ICD code 257.1, 257.2; or
- (v) hypogonadotropic hypogonadism, ICD code 253.4; or
- (vi) hyperthyroidism, ICD code 242; or
- (vii) hypothyroidism, ICD code 244; or
- (viii) hyperprolactinaemia, ICD code 253.1; or
- (ix) pituitary gland adenoma, ICD code 227.3; or
- (x) pituitary or hypothalamic dysfunction, ICD code 253.1, 253.2, 253.4, 253.7 or 253.8; or
- (xi) panhypopituitarism, ICD code 253.2;

“a specified neurological disorder” means one of the following:

- (i) any lesion of the temporal lobe; or
- (ii) temporal lobe epilepsy, ICD code 345.4; or
- (iii) multiple sclerosis, ICD code 340; or
- (iv) peripheral autonomic neuropathy, ICD code 337; or
- (v) Parkinson's disease, ICD code 332; or
- (vi) Guillain-Barre syndrome, ICD code 357.0; or
- (vii) Alzheimer's disease, ICD code 331.0; or
- (viii) quadriplegia, ICD code 344.0; or
- (ix) paraplegia, ICD code 344.1;

“a specified psychiatric condition ” means suffering from one of the following:

- (a) a psychiatric condition with features of anxiety, including
 - (i) generalised anxiety disorder, ICD code 300.02; or
 - (ii) panic disorder, ICD code 300.01; or
 - (iii) adjustment disorder with features of anxiety, ICD code 309.24, 309.28, 309.3, 309.4, or 309.9; or
 - (iv) post traumatic stress disorder, ICD code 309.81; or
- (b) schizophrenia, ICD code, 295.0 - 295.3, 295.6; or
- (c) a psychiatric condition with depressive features including:
 - (i) major depressive disorder, ICD code 296.2 or 296.3; or
 - (ii) neurotic depression, ICD code 300.4; or

- (iii) bipolar disorder, ICD code 296.5, 296.6, 296.7 or 296.89;
or
- (iv) cyclothymic disorder, ICD code 301.13; or
- (v) mood disorder due to a general medical condition, ICD code 293.83; or
- (vi) depressive state induced by drugs, ICD code 292.84; or
- (vii) adjustment disorder with depressed mood, ICD code 309.0, 309.1, 309.28, 309.4 or 309.9; or
- (viii) other depressive disorders, ICD code 311;

“atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease” means the partial or total occlusion by atherosclerotic plaques, of blood supply to the extremities (usually the lower limbs), attracting ICD code 440.2;

“chronic renal failure” means renal injury of a sustained nature that is not reversible and leads to destruction of nephron mass and is associated with a demonstrable functional abnormality of the kidney which raises the level of creatinine, attracting ICD code 585;

“course of therapeutic radiation” means treatment with one or more fractions (treatment portions) of radiation of parts of the body with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

“damage to the spinal cord or cauda equina” means a spinal cord or cauda equina lesion with neurological sequelae, such as would be produced by blunt impact or penetrating wounds, surgery, benign or malignant tumours, inflammatory or infective processes, or disc prolapse;

“diabetes mellitus” means an endocrine disease characterised by:

- (a) a fasting venous plasma glucose concentration of equal to or greater than 7.8 millimoles per litre on at least two separate occasions; or
- (b) a venous plasma glucose concentration equal to or greater than 11.1 millimoles per litre both within two hours and at two hours after ingestion of 75 grams of glucose;

attracting ICD code 250;

“DSM-IV” means the fourth edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*;

“haemochromatosis” means a genetic disorder of iron storage in which an inappropriate increase in intestinal iron absorption results in the deposition of excessive quantities of iron in parenchymal cells, with

eventual tissue damage and functional impairment of the organs involved, especially the liver, pancreas, heart and pituitary, and excluding acquired haemosiderosis, attracting ICD code 275.0;

“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 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

“malignant neoplasm of the reproductive organs” means

- (i) malignant neoplasm of the penis and other male genital organs, ICD code 187; or
- (ii) malignant neoplasm of the testis, ICD code 186; or
- (iii) malignant neoplasm of the prostate, ICD code 185;

“pack-year” means 7300 cigarettes, or 1460 cigars, or 7.3 kg of pipe tobacco;

“Peyronie’s disease” means induration of the corpora cavernosa of the penis, characterised by a circumscribed, firm, painless plaque or band, usually situated on the dorsum of the penis, attracting ICD code 607.89;

“priapism” means persistent abnormal erection of the penis, usually without sexual desire, and accompanied by pain and tenderness, attracting ICD code 607.3;

“psychoactive substance abuse or dependence involving alcohol” means a maladaptive pattern of use, attracting ICD code 303, 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);

“relevant service” means:

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

“suffering from blunt or penetrating trauma” means suffering an injury to the external genitals, perineum or pelvis caused by the force of an extraneous mechanical or physical agent;

“therapeutic radiation” means medical treatment by irradiation to the person with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

“undergoing a course of treatment with drugs identified in the Schedule” means therapeutic administration of one the drugs in the following schedule:

- (i) histamine 2 receptor antagonists, including cimetidine, ranitidine; or
- (ii) spironolactone; or
- (iii) ketaconazole; or
- (iv) antiandrogens, including finasteride, flutamide, nilutamide, cyproterone acetate; or
- (v) oestrogens, including stilboestrol; or
- (vi) central acting sympatholytics, including clonidine and methyldopa; or
- (vii) peripheral acting sympatholytics, including guanadrel; or
- (viii) beta blockers, including propranolol, atenolol, labetalol; or
- (ix) thiazide diuretics; or
- (x) anticholinergics, including cogentin, scopolamine, atropine; or
- (xi) tricyclic antidepressants; or
- (xii) selective serotonin reuptake/inhibitors; or
- (xiii) antipsychotic phenothiazines; or
- (xiv) butyrophenones; or
- (xv) anxiolytics, including benzodiazepines, barbiturates; or
- (xvi) narcotics; or
- (xvii) anabolic steroids.

Dated this *Sixteenth* day of *August* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN