

REVOKED

Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

ICD CODES: 555, 556

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **inflammatory bowel disease** and **death from inflammatory bowel disease**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**inflammatory bowel disease**” means a group of chronic inflammatory disorders involving the gastrointestinal tract, the most common of which are ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, attracting ICD code 555 or 556. This definition excludes bowel inflammation secondary to vascular insufficiency, radiation, infection or known toxins.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **inflammatory bowel disease** 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, 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 **inflammatory bowel disease** or **death from inflammatory bowel disease** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) for Crohn's disease only, smoking cigarettes or other tobacco products, for at least one half of one pack-year immediately before the clinical onset of Crohn's disease, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within four years of cessation; or
 - (b) for Crohn's disease only, smoking cigarettes or other tobacco products, for at least one half of one pack-year immediately before the clinical worsening of Crohn's disease, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical worsening has occurred within four years of cessation; or
 - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for inflammatory bowel disease.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs **5(b)** and **5(c)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, inflammatory bowel disease where the person's inflammatory bowel disease 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.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“Crohn's disease” means a type of inflammatory bowel disease affecting any part of the gastrointestinal tract, which is characterized by chronic inflammation which may extend through all layers of the gastrointestinal tract wall, and is also known as regional enteritis, attracting ICD code 555;

“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;

“pack-year” means 7,300 cigarettes, or 1,460 cigars, or 7.3kg of pipe tobacco;

“relevant service” means:

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

“ulcerative colitis” means a chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, which primarily affects the large bowel and is usually limited to the mucosa and submucosa, attracting ICD code 556.

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