

**Revocation and Determination**

of

**Statement of Principles**  
concerning

**CHRONIC PANCREATITIS**

**ICD CODE: 577.1**

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

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **chronic pancreatitis** and **death from chronic pancreatitis**.  
  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**chronic pancreatitis**” means a continuing inflammatory disease of the pancreas characterised by irreversible morphological change that is typically associated with pain or permanent impairment of exocrine (steatorrhea) and endocrine (diabetes mellitus) function or both, attracting ICD code 577.1.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chronic pancreatitis and death from chronic pancreatitis** 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 **chronic pancreatitis** or **death from chronic pancreatitis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) having evidence of prolonged and heavy alcohol consumption before the clinical onset of chronic pancreatitis; or
  - (b) suffering from a disorder disturbing the anatomical structure of the pancreatic ductal system from the specified list at the time of the clinical onset of chronic pancreatitis; or
  - (c) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the region of the pancreas, where the first exposure occurred at least one year before the clinical onset of chronic pancreatitis; or
  - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic pancreatitis.

### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

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

**“a course of therapeutic radiation”** means one or more fractions (treatment portions) of ionising radiation administered with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

**“a disorder disturbing the anatomical structure of the pancreatic ductal system from the specified list”** means a demonstrated alteration to the pancreatic ductal system with consequent disturbed pancreatic outflow. This may be caused by the following disorders:

- (i) post-traumatic pancreatic ductal strictures, for example following blunt or penetrating trauma to the pancreas; or

- (ii) pancreatic pseudocysts, for example following acute pancreatitis; or
- (iii) mechanical or structural changes of the pancreatic-duct sphincter; or
- (iv) periampullary tumors;

**“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;

**“prolonged and heavy alcohol consumption”** means excess alcohol consumption evidenced by medical recognition of such excess, and which is defined as:

- (i) consumption of at least 180kg of alcohol within any five year period; or
- (ii) complications attributable to alcohol abuse, including fractures, falls and/or polyneuritis; or
- (iii) hospitalisation(s) for alcohol-related illness; or
- (iv) at least one admission to a facility for alcohol detoxification;

**“relevant service”** means:

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

## **Application**

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

Dated this **Second** day of **May** 1997

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN