

# REVOKED

## Revocation and Determination

of

## Statement of Principles concerning

# NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

**ICD CODES: 200.0, 200.1, 200.8, 202.0, 202.1, 202.2, 202.8**

### *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.175 of 1996; and
  - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

#### **Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** and **death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**” means a heterogenous group of malignant neoplastic diseases arising from the lymphoid components of the immune system, the common feature of which is the absence of the Reed-Sternberg cells characteristic of Hodgkin's disease, attracting ICD code 200.0, 200.1, 200.8, 202.0, 202.1, 202.2 or 202.8. It is also known as reticulosarcoma or lymphosarcoma, and includes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma arising within parenchymal organs. This definition excludes Burkitt's lymphoma.

### **Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** 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 factors set out 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 **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** or **death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (b) in the case of adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma only, being infected with HTLV-1 before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (c) being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (d) having received chronic systemic immunosuppressive drug therapy within the ten years immediately before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (e) for primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the small intestine only, suffering from coeliac disease at the time of the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (f) for primary B-cell lymphoma of the stomach only, contracting *Helicobacter pylori* infection before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (g) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

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

6. Paragraph 5(g) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma where the person's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma 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:

**“adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma”** means a malignancy of mature T lymphocytes with onset in adulthood characterised by circulating pleomorphic malignant lymphocytes, skin lesions, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly and lytic bone lesions;

**“being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam”** may be said to have occurred only if the person had, before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:

- (a) rendered more than 30 days service on land in Vietnam; or
- (b) regularly eaten fish, fish products, crustaceans, shellfish or meat from Vietnam; or
- (c) regularly eaten food cooked with water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment, or regularly drunk water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment; or
- (d) regularly inhaled dust in a defoliated area in Vietnam or regularly inhaled herbicide fog in Vietnam; or
- (e) sprayed or decanted herbicides in Vietnam as an occupational requirement;

**“being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)”** means serological evidence of infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attracting ICD code 042 or 079.53;

**“being infected with HTLV-1”** means serological evidence of infection within the retro virus human T-cell lymphotropic virus Type 1, attracting ICD code 079.51;

**“chronic systemic immunosuppressive drug therapy”** means the therapeutic administration of a drug such as cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil or azathioprine continuously for a period of at least three

months, for organ transplantation; or for the treatment of a chronic immunological disorder, such as rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, dermatitis herpetiformis or chronic glomerulonephritis;

**“coeliac disease”** means a malabsorptive disease of the small intestine precipitated by the ingestion of gluten-containing foods, which results in characteristic changes in the small intestinal epithelium and is characterised in its advanced form by diarrhoea, steatorrhoea, abdominal distention, and abnormal tests of absorptive function, attracting ICD code 579.0. It is also known as gluten enteropathy and non-tropical sprue;

**“*Helicobacter pylori* infection”** means an infection of the mucus layer overlying gastric-type epithelium by the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, attracting ICD code 041.86;

**“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;

**“Reed-Sternberg cell”** means a giant cell with two or more nuclei with prominent nucleoli with perinucleolar halos, also known as a giant histiocytic cell, and which is the common histological characteristic of Hodgkin's disease;

**“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 **Ninth** day of **September**  
1997

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN