

## Amendment of Statement of Principles

concerning

# **MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE OESOPHAGUS**

**ICD CODE: 150**

**Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986**

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority amends, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), Instrument No.115 of 1996, (Statement of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus), by:
  - A. omitting the definition of "malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus" in paragraph 2(b) and replacing it with the following:

"(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles **'malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus'** means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the oesophagus, attracting ICD code 150, but excluding soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease. The oesophagus is defined as the structure which begins proximally with the lower border of the hypopharynx and extends distally to the distal border of the lower oesophageal sphincter.

Notes to user (these notes do not form part of this instrument):

1. If the primary malignant neoplasm is histologically an adenocarcinoma and it arises on or close to the oesophagogastric junction, such that its site of origin cannot be determined, the factors for both the malignant neoplasm of the stomach and the malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus Statements of Principles should be considered.

2. If soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or Hodgkin's disease of the oesophagus is claimed, reference is to be made to the relevant Statement of Principles for that disease.”;

B. omitting paragraph 5(a) and inserting the following in its place:

“(a) for squamous cell or undifferentiated carcinoma of the oesophagus:

- (i) smoking five to ten cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least ten years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
- (ii) smoking more than ten cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
- (iii) drinking at least 250 kilograms of alcohol before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
- (iv) ingestion of lye where ingestion occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or”;

C. inserting in paragraph 7 after the definition of “squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus” the following definition:

“**undifferentiated carcinoma of the oesophagus**’ means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the lining of the oesophagus where cellular dedifferentiation precludes further classification.”.

3. The amendments made by this instrument apply to all matters to which Instrument No.115 of 1996 and section 120A of the Act apply.

Dated this *Twenty-second* day of *January*  
1998

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN