

REVOKED

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT

ICD 9-CM CODES: 431, 433.01, 433.11, 433.21, 433.31, 433.81, 433.91,
434.01, 434.11, 434.91, 435, 436, 437.1, 674.0

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.23 of 1998; 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 **cerebrovascular accident** and **death from cerebrovascular accident**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**cerebrovascular accident**" means cerebral ischaemia or intracerebral haemorrhage, attracting ICD-9-CM code 431, 433.01, 433.11, 433.21, 433.31, 433.81, 433.91, 434.01, 434.11, 434.91, 435, 436, 437.1 or 674.0.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **cerebrovascular accident** and **death from cerebrovascular accident** 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 **cerebrovascular accident** or **death from cerebrovascular accident** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) suffering from hypertension before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (b) experiencing a severe stressor within the 48 hours immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (c) suffering from panic disorder before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (d) an inability to undertake vigorous or moderate physical activity for a continuous period of at least five years immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (e) regularly consuming an average of 250g/week of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks), for a continuous period of at least one year immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (f) suffering from meningitis, encephalitis or cerebral abscess at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (g) suffering from inflammatory vascular disease affecting the cerebral vessels at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (h) being pregnant, undergoing childbirth, or being within the puerperal period at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (j) using cocaine within the 72 hours immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or

- (k) for cerebral ischaemia only,
 - (i) smoking at least five cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within 15 years of cessation; or
 - (ii) suffering from diabetes mellitus at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (iii) the presence of a serum total cholesterol level equal to or greater than 8 mmol/L before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (iv) regularly ingesting the combined (oestrogen and progestogen) oral contraceptive pill for a continuous period of at least three weeks immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (v) the presence of a potential cardiac source of cerebral embolus at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (vi) using heroin within the 72 hours immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (vii) suffering from disease of the precerebral artery supplying the area of cerebral ischaemia at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (viii) suffering from one of the conditions from the specified list of conditions leading to cerebral vasospasm at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (ix) suffering from one of the haematological disorders from the specified list of haematological disorders at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or

- (m) for vertebrobasilar ischaemia only,
 - (i) suffering trauma to the neck or the base of the skull within the 12 months immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (ii) suffering from cervical spondylosis where the osteophytes are impinging on the vertebral artery at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
- (n) for intracerebral haemorrhage only,
 - (i) undergoing anticoagulant therapy at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (ii) taking aspirin:
 - (A) on at least three days per week; and
 - (B) for a continuous period of at least four weeks; and

where the last dose of aspirin taken before the cerebrovascular accident was taken within the seven days immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (iii) undergoing thrombolytic therapy at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (iv) the presence of one of the conditions from the specified list of conditions leading to haemostatic failure at the time of the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (v) bleeding of an intracerebral space occupying lesion of the brain immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular accident; or
 - (vi) suffering from a head injury within the four weeks immediately before the clinical onset of cerebrovascular disease; or
- (o) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for cerebrovascular accident.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

- 6.** Paragraph 5(o) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, cerebrovascular accident where the person's cerebrovascular accident 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.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

Other definitions

8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks)” is measured by the alcohol consumption calculations utilising the Australian Standard of 10 grams of alcohol per standard alcoholic drink;

“anticoagulant therapy” means therapeutic administration of any substance that prevents blood clotting, for example, heparin, warfarin, or dicumarol and congeners;

“cerebral ischaemia” means a reduction or interruption of blood supply to an area of the brain which usually presents as a transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or stroke;

“cervical spondylosis” means degenerative changes affecting the cervical vertebrae and/or intervertebral discs, causing local pain and stiffness and/or symptoms and signs of cervical cord or cervical nerve root compression;

“death from cerebrovascular accident” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's cerebrovascular accident;

“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;

“experiencing a severe stressor” means the person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event or events that involved actual

or threat of death or serious injury, or a threat to the person's, or another person's, physical integrity.

In the setting of service in the Defence Forces, or other service where the Veterans' Entitlement Act applies, events that qualify as stressors include:

- (i) threat of serious injury or death; or
- (ii) engagement with the enemy; or
- (iii) witnessing casualties or participation in or observation of casualty clearance, atrocities or abusive violence;

“head injury” means a blunt or penetrating wound of the head which results directly from the impact of a blow to the head, or indirectly from acceleration or deceleration forces applied to the head, and which causes:

- (i) closed or open fracture of the skull; or
- (ii) concussion, loss of consciousness, or post-traumatic amnesia; or
- (iii) cerebral laceration, contusion, or other intracranial injury;

“hypertension” means:

- (a) a usual blood pressure reading where the systolic reading is greater than or equal to 140mmHg and/or where the diastolic reading is greater than or equal to 90mmHg; or
- (b) where treatment for hypertension is being administered;

“ICD-9-CM 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;

“inflammatory vascular disease” means an acute, subacute or chronic inflammatory disorder of the arterial or venous wall, such as:

- (a) giant-cell arteritis; or
- (b) Takayasu's disease; or
- (c) systemic lupus erythematosus; or
- (d) Wegener's granulomatosis; or
- (e) allergic granulomatous angiitis; or
- (f) serum sickness; or
- (g) Sjogren's syndrome; or
- (h) Behcet's disease; or
- (j) polyarteritis nodosa;

“intracerebral haemorrhage” means bleeding within the cerebrum;

“intracerebral space occupying lesion” means any pathological entity occupying a delimited area within the brain, including:

- (a) primary or secondary malignant neoplasms of the brain; or
- (b) intracerebral abscess; or
- (c) tuberculoma of the brain; or
- (d) cerebral cysts; or
- (e) idiopathic space occupying lesion;

“panic disorder” means the presence of recurrent, unexpected panic attacks followed by at least one month of persistent concern about having another panic attack, worry about possible implications or consequences of the panic attacks, or a significant behavioural change related to the panic attacks, as clinically defined in the diagnostic criteria for panic disorder in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV)*, and includes panic disorder without agoraphobia and panic disorder with agoraphobia;

“potential cardiac source of cerebral embolus” means one of the following:

- (a) Paradoxical embolism from the venous system:
 - (i) atrial septal defect; or
 - (ii) ventricular septal defect; or
 - (iii) pulmonary arteriovenous fistula;
- (b) Left atrium:
 - (i) atrial fibrillation; or
 - (ii) sinoatrial disease; or
 - (iii) cardiac myxoma; or

- (iv) interatrial septal aneurysm;
- (c) Mitral valve:
 - (i) rheumatic stenosis or regurgitation; or
 - (ii) infective endocarditis; or
 - (iii) non-bacterial thrombotic (marantic) endocarditis; or
 - (iv) prosthetic valve; or
 - (v) mitral annulus calcification; or
 - (vi) Libman-Sacks endocarditis; or
 - (vii) papillary fibroelastoma;
- (d) Left ventricular mural thrombus:
 - (i) acute myocardial infarction; or
 - (ii) left ventricular aneurysm; or
 - (iii) dilating cardiomyopathy; or
 - (iv) cardiac myxoma; or
 - (v) blunt chest injury;
- (e) Aortic valve:
 - (i) rheumatic stenosis or regurgitation; or
 - (ii) infective endocarditis; or
 - (iii) non-bacterial thrombotic (marantic) endocarditis; or
 - (iv) prosthetic valve; or
 - (v) calcification and/or sclerosis; or
 - (vi) syphilis;
- (f) Cardiac surgery, instrumentation of coronary arteries and aorta;

“precerebral artery” means extracerebral arteries supplying the brain, such as the carotid artery, vertebral artery and basilar artery;

“puerperal period” means the period of 42 days immediately following the end of the third stage of labour;

“relevant service” means:

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

“specified list of conditions leading to cerebral vasospasm” means the following:

- (a) subarachnoid haemorrhage; or
- (b) migraine; or
- (c) clampsia of pregnancy;

“specified list of conditions leading to haemostatic failure” means the following list of conditions of the body in which impairment of normal blood clotting mechanisms due to a defect in the platelet or plasma coagulation system predisposes to cerebral haemorrhage:

- (a) haemophilia and other coagulation disorders; or
- (b) thrombocytopenia; or
- (c) thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura; or
- (d) polycythaemia rubra vera; or
- (e) essential thrombocythaemia; or
- (f) paraproteinaemias; or
- (g) disseminated intravascular coagulation; or
- (h) qualitative platelet defects; or
- (j) snake bite; or
- (k) other haemorrhagic conditions; or
- (m) aplastic anaemia; or
- (n) multiple myeloma; or
- (o) dysproteinaemia; or
- (p) macroglobulinaemia;

“specified list of haematological disorders” means the following:

- (a) polycythaemia; or
- (b) essential thrombocythaemia; or
- (c) sickle cell disease; or
- (d) sickle cell trait; or
- (e) multiple myeloma; or
- (f) macroglobulinaemia; or
- (g) essential thrombocytosis; or
- (h) hyperviscosity syndrome; or
- (j) chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
- (k) myeloproliferative disease;

“terminal event” means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- a) pneumonia;
- b) respiratory failure;
- c) cardiac arrest;
- d) circulatory failure; or
- e) cessation of brain function.

“thrombocytopenia” means an acquired platelet count of less than 50 000 per microlitre on haematological testing, and due to a cause specified in the Repatriation Medical Authority’s Statement about the causes of “thrombocytopenia” signed by the Chairman of the Authority on 27 March 1998;

“thrombolytic therapy” means therapeutic administration of exogenous agents that dissolve blood clots, for example, streptokinase, urokinase or tissue plasminogen activator;

“trauma to the neck or the base of the skull” means a penetrating injury or a non-penetrating injury, involving extension or rotation of the neck, and includes any injury resulting in fracture or dislocation of the cervical spine;

“vertebrobasilar ischaemia” means infarction or ischaemia due to narrowing or occlusion of the vertebral or basilar arteries;

“vigorous or moderate physical activity” means physical activity greater than 3 METs, where a “MET” is a unit of measurement of the level of physical exertion, of no greater than 2.5 kcal per minute. 1 MET = 3.5 ml of oxygen/kg of body weight per minute or, 1.0 kcal/kg of body weight per hour, or resting metabolic rate. (A MET approximates to the energy required to rest quietly in bed. A 70 kg man would use about 3 METS when walking at 4 km per hour.).

Application

9. This instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *January* 1999

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN