

## Revocation and Determination

of

## Statement of Principles concerning

# HAEMORRHOIDS

**ICD-10-AM CODES: I84, O22.4, O87.2**

*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.73 of 1994; 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 **haemorrhoids** and **death from haemorrhoids**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, **“haemorrhoids”** means symptomatic external and/or internal haemorrhoids, attracting ICD codes I84, O22.4 and O87.2. This definition does not include anorectal varices.

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

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **haemorrhoids** and **death from haemorrhoids** 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 **haemorrhoids** or **death from haemorrhoids** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) being pregnant within the two weeks before the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
  - (b) straining at stool due to constipation or diarrhoea within the two weeks before the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
  - (c) suffering from spinal cord injury at the time of the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
  - (d) suffering from chronic urinary obstruction at the time of the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
  - (e) being pregnant within the two weeks before the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
  - (f) straining at stool due to constipation or diarrhoea within the two weeks before the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
  - (g) suffering from spinal cord injury at the time of the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
  - (h) suffering from chronic urinary obstruction at the time of the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
  - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for haemorrhoids.

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

6. Paragraphs **5(e) to 5(j)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of haemorrhoids where the person's haemorrhoids 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:

**“chronic urinary obstruction”** means long standing obstruction to outflow of urine from the bladder;

**“death from haemorrhoids”** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s haemorrhoids;

**“ICD-10-AM code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), effective date of 1 July 1998, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86451 340 3;

**“relevant service”** means:

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

**“spinal cord injury”** means an injury to the spinal cord that has resulted in permanent motor and sensory deficits below the level of the lesion;

**“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.

## **Application**

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

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *June* 2000

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

**KEN DONALD**  
**CHAIRMAN**