

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE
STOMACH**

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.67 of 1997 and Instrument No.9 of 1998;
and
 - (b) determines in their place the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2.
 - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **malignant neoplasm of the stomach** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**malignant neoplasm of the stomach**" means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the stomach. The stomach is defined as the structure which extends from the lower border of the oesophageal sphincter, to, and including, the pyloric sphincter. This definition excludes soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease.
 - (c) Malignant neoplasm of the stomach attracts ICD-10-AM code C16.

- (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of **“malignant neoplasm of the stomach”** is that given at para 2(b) above.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **malignant neoplasm of the stomach** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach** 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 **malignant neoplasm of the stomach** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach** with the circumstances of a person’s relevant service are:

- (a) for carcinoma of the stomach only,
- (i) smoking at least 15 pack years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, where smoking commenced at least 15 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within 25 years of cessation; or
 - (ii) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of at least 0.05 Sievert of atomic radiation to the stomach where this dose was accumulated at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
 - (iii) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the region of the stomach, where the first exposure occurred at least 10 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or

- (b) for carcinoma of the fundus, body, antrum or pylorus of the stomach only,
 - (i) being infected with *Helicobacter pylori* at least 10 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
 - (ii) having undergone a partial gastrectomy at least 15 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
 - (iii) suffering from chronic atrophic gastritis, where the chronic atrophic gastritis commenced at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
- (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the stomach.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

- 6. Paragraph 5(c) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, malignant neoplasm of the stomach where the person's malignant neoplasm of the stomach 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:

“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;

“atomic radiation” means ionising radiation excluding;

- (i) natural background radiation;
- (ii) therapeutic radiation; and
- (iii) radiation from diagnostic procedures;

“carcinoma of the fundus, body, antrum or pylorus of the stomach” means a carcinoma that has arisen in the mucosa of any part of the stomach, excluding that part of the stomach immediately adjacent to and surrounding the opening of the oesophagus (the cardia of the stomach) that is distinguished histologically by the presence of cardiac glands and the absence of parietal (acid secreting) and chief (pepsin secreting) cells;

“chronic atrophic gastritis” means inflammation of the gastric mucosa characterised by variable gland loss and inflammatory infiltrate extending below the lamina propria with distortion and destruction of the gastric glands;

“cumulative equivalent dose” means the total equivalent dose of atomic radiation from all types of radiation (eg alpha, gamma). It accounts for the differences in biological effectiveness of various types of radiation and allows doses from different radiations to be combined. Each component is calculated by multiplying the absorbed dose in a particular tissue or organ for a given type of radiation by the radiation weighting factor for that radiation. The unit of equivalent dose is the Sievert (Sv);

“death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s malignant neoplasm of the stomach;

“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), Third Edition, effective date of 1 July 2002, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 413 9;

“pack years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products” means a calculation of consumption where one pack year of cigarettes equals twenty tailor made cigarettes per day for a period of one calendar year, or 7 300 cigarettes. One tailor made cigarette approximates one gram of tobacco or one gram of cigar or pipe tobacco by weight. One pack year of tailor made cigarettes equates to 7 300 cigarettes, or 7.3kg of smoking tobacco by weight. Tobacco products means either cigarettes, pipe tobacco or cigars smoked, alone or in any combination;

“relevant service” means:

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

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

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

Application

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

Dated this *Seventh* day of *April* 2003

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN