



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles
concerning
IgA NEPHROPATHY
(Balance of Probabilities)
(No. 64 of 2021)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 21 May 2021

The Common Seal of the
Repatriation Medical Authority
was affixed to this instrument
at the direction of:

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson

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1 Name

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *IgA nephropathy (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 64 of 2021).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 21 June 2021.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 Repeal

The Statement of Principles concerning mesangial IgA glomerulonephritis No. 53 of 2012 (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2012L01794) made under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA is repealed.

5 Application

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120B of the VEA or section 339 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* applies.

6 Definitions

The terms defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary have the meaning given when used in this instrument.

7 Kind of injury, disease or death to which this Statement of Principles relates

- (1) This Statement of Principles is about IgA nephropathy and death from IgA nephropathy.

Meaning of IgA nephropathy

- (2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, IgA nephropathy means:
- (a) a disease of the kidneys characterised by deposition of immunoglobulin A in the renal mesangium demonstrated by renal biopsy and which results in haematuria or proteinuria or renal dysfunction; and
 - (b) excludes IgA vasculitis (Henoch-Schönlein purpura).

Note: IgA nephropathy is also known as mesangial IgA glomerulonephritis or IgA glomerulonephritis.

- (3) While IgA nephropathy attracts ICD-10-AM code N02.1, N02.2, N02.2.1, N02.3, N02.5 or N02.8, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of IgA nephropathy is that given in subsection (2).
- (4) For subsection (3), a reference to an ICD-10-AM code is a reference to the code assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in *The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM)*, Tenth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2017, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, ISBN 978-1-76007-296-4.

Death from IgA nephropathy

- (5) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, IgA nephropathy, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's IgA nephropathy.

Note: *terminal event* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

8 Basis for determining the factors

On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that IgA nephropathy and death from IgA nephropathy can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the MRCA.

Note: *MRCA*, *relevant service* and *VEA* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

9 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, IgA nephropathy or death from IgA nephropathy is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) having cirrhosis of the liver or chronic liver disease at the time of the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *chronic liver disease* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (2) having an autoimmune disease from the specified list of autoimmune diseases at the time of the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *specified list of autoimmune diseases* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (3) having a malignant neoplasm at the time of the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

- (4) taking a drug which is associated in the individual with the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy during drug therapy and either:
- (a) the improvement of IgA nephropathy within 3 months of discontinuing or tapering drug therapy; or
 - (b) the redevelopment of IgA nephropathy on rechallenge with the same drug; and

where taking the drug continued for at least the 7 days before the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

- (5) taking a biologic agent for the treatment of cancer or autoimmune disease for at least the 7 days before the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *biologic agent* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (6) undergoing kidney transplantation before the clinical onset of IgA nephropathy;

- (7) having cirrhosis of the liver or chronic liver disease at the time of the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *chronic liver disease* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (8) having an autoimmune disease from the specified list of autoimmune diseases at the time of the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *specified list of autoimmune diseases* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (9) having a malignant neoplasm at the time of the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

- (10) taking a drug which is associated in the individual with the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy during drug therapy and either:

- (a) the improvement of IgA nephropathy within 3 months of discontinuing or tapering drug therapy; or
- (b) the worsening of IgA nephropathy on rechallenge with the same drug; and

where taking the drug continued for at least the 7 days before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

- (11) taking a biologic agent for the treatment of cancer or autoimmune disease for at least the 7 days before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *biologic agent* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (12) undergoing kidney transplantation before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

- (13) being overweight or obese for at least the 5 years before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *being overweight or obese* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (14) having smoked at least 5 pack-years of tobacco products in the 10 years before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *one pack-year* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (15) inhaling, ingesting or having cutaneous contact with an organic solvent in an unventilated and confined space:

- (a) for an average of at least 2 hours per week; and
(b) for at least 1 year within the 5 years before the clinical worsening of IgA nephropathy;

Note: *organic solvent* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (16) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for IgA nephropathy.

10 Relationship to service

- (1) The existence in a person of any factor referred to in section 9, must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.
- (2) The factors set out in subsections 9(7) to 9(16) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, IgA nephropathy where the person's IgA nephropathy was suffered or contracted before or during (but did not arise out of) the person's relevant service.

11 Factors referring to an injury or disease covered by another Statement of Principles

In this Statement of Principles:

- (1) if a factor referred to in section 9 applies in relation to a person; and
(2) that factor refers to an injury or disease in respect of which a Statement of Principles has been determined under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA;

then the factors in that Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.

Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 6

1 Definitions

In this instrument:

being overweight or obese means having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or greater.

Note: **BMI** is also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

biologic agent means a therapeutic product which is derived from living organisms or which contains components of living organisms.

Note: Examples of biologic agents used for the treatment of cancer or autoimmune disease include interferons, monoclonal antibodies, tumour necrosis factor- α inhibitors, tyrosine kinase inhibitors and vascular endothelial growth factor antagonists.

BMI means W/H^2 where:

- (a) W is the person's weight in kilograms; and
- (b) H is the person's height in metres.

chronic liver disease means progressive destruction of the liver parenchyma resulting in abnormal liver function which has been present for at least 6 months.

IgA nephropathy—see subsection 7(2).

MRCA means the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

one pack-year means the amount of tobacco consumed in smoking 20 cigarettes per day for a period of 1 year, or an equivalent amount of tobacco products.

Note 1: An equivalent amount of tobacco products is 7,300 grams of smoking tobacco by weight, either in cigarettes, pipe tobacco or cigars, or a combination of same. For pipe tobacco, cigars or combinations of multiple tobacco types, 1 gram of tobacco is considered to be equal to one cigarette.

Note 2: Pack-years are calculated by dividing the number of cigarettes smoked per day by 20 and multiplying this number by the number of years the person has smoked. For example, smoking 10 cigarettes per day for 10 years is equal to 5 pack-years, and smoking 40 cigarettes per day for 10 years is equal to 20 pack-years.

organic solvent means:

- (a) aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent;
- (b) aromatic hydrocarbon solvent;
- (c) chlorinated organic solvent; or
- (d) oxygenated organic solvent.

relevant service means:

- (a) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service and British nuclear test defence service) under the VEA; or
- (c) peacetime service under the MRCA.

Note: **MRCA** and **VEA** are also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

specified list of autoimmune diseases means:

- (a) coeliac disease; or
- (b) inflammatory bowel disease.

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

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

VEA means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.