

REVOKED

Determination

of

Statement of Principles

concerning

PSORIASIS

ICD CODES: 696.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **psoriasis** and **death from psoriasis**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**psoriasis**" means a chronic inflammatory skin disorder involving hyperproliferation of the epidermis and characterised by erythematous, sharply demarcated papules and rounded plaques, covered by silvery scale, attracting ICD code 696.1.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **psoriasis** 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, the factors set out in at least one of the paragraphs 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 **psoriasis** or **death from psoriasis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
- (a) undergoing treatment with β -blockers at the time of the clinical onset of psoriasis; or
 - (b) undergoing treatment with lithium at the time of the clinical onset of psoriasis; or
 - (c) undergoing treatment with β -blockers at the time of the clinical worsening of psoriasis; or
 - (d) undergoing treatment with lithium at the time of the clinical worsening of psoriasis; or
 - (e) suffering trauma or other interruption to the integrity of the epidermal and dermal layers of the skin at the affected site (resulting in the occurrence of the Koebner phenomenon) within the 30 days immediately before the clinical worsening of psoriasis; or
 - (f) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for psoriasis.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs 5(c) to 5(f) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, psoriasis where the person's psoriasis 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.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"ICD 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 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5;

"Koebner phenomenon" means the development of isomorphic psoriatic lesions immediately subsequent to, and at the site of, a cutaneous injury;

“other interruption to the integrity of the epidermal and dermal layers of the skin” means a range of disorders producing cutaneous vesicles; for example, drug eruption, Herpes Zoster infection and acute dermatitis; and external forces causing damage to the skin; for example, chemical, thermal or electrical burns;

“relevant service” means:

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

“trauma” means wound, cut, laceration or abrasion of the skin, interrupting the integrity of the epidermal and dermal layers of the skin.

Dated this *Sixteenth* day of *January* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN