

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER

ICD CODES: 571.2, 571.5, 571.6

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.75 of 1996; 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 **cirrhosis of the liver and death from cirrhosis of the liver**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**cirrhosis of the liver**" means a pathologically defined entity involving irreversible chronic injury of the hepatic parenchyma and includes extensive fibrosis in association with regenerative nodules, attracting ICD code 571.2, 571.5 or 571.6.

Basis for determining the factors

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

- (a) for men, consuming at least 150kg of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks) within any 10 year period before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (b) for women, consuming at least 75kg of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks) within any 10 year period before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (c) suffering from chronic hepatitis B before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (d) suffering from chronic hepatitis C before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (e) suffering from severe right-sided cardiac failure for a continuous period of at least twelve months, within the five year period immediately before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (f) consuming a daily average of at least 50,000 international units of vitamin A for a period of at least 18 months, within the ten years immediately before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (g) being treated with methotrexate for at least the twelve months immediately before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (h) being occupationally exposed to carbon tetrachloride for a period of at least six months within the five year period immediately before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (j) suffering from schistosomiasis involving the liver for at least five years before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (k) suffering from a chronic partial or complete blockage to the passage of bile from the intrahepatic biliary system to the

duodenum at the time of the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver;
or

- (m) suffering from haemochromatosis at the time of the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (n) suffering from autoimmune chronic active hepatitis before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (o) being injected with thorotrast before the clinical onset of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (p) for men, consuming at least 150kg of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks) within any 10 year period before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (q) for women, consuming at least 75kg of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks) within any 10 year period before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (r) suffering from chronic hepatitis B before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (s) suffering from chronic hepatitis C before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (t) suffering from severe right-sided cardiac failure for a continuous period of at least twelve months, within the five year period immediately before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver;
or
- (u) consuming a daily average of at least 50,000 international units of vitamin A for a period of at least 18 months within the ten years immediately before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver;
or
- (v) being treated with methotrexate for at least the twelve months immediately before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver;
or
- (w) being occupationally exposed to carbon tetrachloride for a period of at least six months within the five year period immediately before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (x) suffering from schistosomiasis involving the liver for at least five years before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or

- (y) suffering from a chronic partial or complete blockage to the passage of bile from the intrahepatic biliary system to the duodenum at the time of the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (z) suffering from haemochromatosis at the time of the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (za) suffering from autoimmune chronic active hepatitis before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (zb) being injected with thorotrast before the clinical worsening of cirrhosis of the liver; or
- (zc) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for cirrhosis of the liver.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraphs **5(p) to 5(zc)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, cirrhosis of the liver where the person's cirrhosis of the liver 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:

“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.

“autoimmune chronic active hepatitis” means a chronic disorder of autoimmunity characterised by continuing hepatocellular necrosis and inflammation and seroimmunologic abnormalities, attracting ICD code 571.49;

“chronic hepatitis B” means evidence of chronic hepatitis B on serologic testing, being the presence of HBsAg in the absence of IgM anti-HBc, attracting ICD code 070.22, 070.23, 070.32 or 070.33;

“chronic hepatitis C” means chronic hepatitis C infection with the presence of anti-HCV on serologic testing, attracting ICD code 070.44 or 070.54;

“daily average of at least 50,000 international units of vitamin A” means, for example, approximately 10 of the common tablet form of vitamin A supplement which contain 5,000 international units;

“haemochromatosis” means a genetic disorder of iron storage in which an inappropriate increase in intestinal iron absorption results in the deposition of excessive quantities of iron in parenchymal cells, with eventual tissue damage and functional impairment of the organs involved, especially the liver, pancreas, heart and pituitary, and excludes acquired haemosiderosis, attracting ICD code 275.0;

“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;

“occupationally exposed to carbon tetrachloride” means working with, or in the production of, carbon tetrachloride and breathing the vapours or having the carbon tetrachloride come in contact with the skin;

“relevant service” means:

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

“severe right-sided cardiac failure” means a reduced ability of the right ventricle to process venous return, evidenced by marked venous and liver congestion and extensive peripheral oedema, attracting ICD code 428.0;

“schistosomiasis” (otherwise known as bilharziasis) means infection by a parasite of the genus *Schistosoma*, (trematode flatworms, commonly known as blood flukes) being *S. mansoni*, *S. haematobium*, *S. japonicum*, *S. intercalatum*, *S. mekongi* or *S. malayensis*, attracting ICD code 120;

“thorotrast” means a contrast medium formerly used in radiography, which contained thorium dioxide, a radioactive emitter.

Application

- 8.** This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Fifth* day of *May* 1998

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN