

**Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning  
**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF UNKNOWN  
PRIMARY SITE**

for the purposes of the

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*  
and  
*Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*

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

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site** and **death from malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site**” means a metastatic malignant neoplasm for which the site of origin cannot be determined after a complete history, physical examination and appropriate investigations have been carried out. This definition excludes soft tissue sarcoma and malignant melanoma.
- (c) Malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site attracts ICD-10-AM code C80.
- (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of “**malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site**” is that given at paragraph 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 unknown primary site** and **death from malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

### **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 the relevant service rendered by the person.

### **Factors**

5. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site** or **death from malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
  - (a) smoking at least ten pack years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site, and where smoking commenced at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site; or
  - (b) drinking at least 250 kilograms of alcohol before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site, where drinking alcohol commenced at least ten years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site; or
  - (c) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of 0.20 Sievert of atomic radiation to the body where this dose was accumulated at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site; or
  - (d) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site; or
  - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site.

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

6. Paragraph 5(e) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site where the person's malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

### **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;

**“alcohol”** is measured by the alcohol consumption calculations utilising the Australian Standard of ten grams of alcohol per standard alcoholic drink;

**“atomic radiation”** means ionising radiation excluding:

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

**“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 unknown primary site”** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site;

**“ICD-10-AM code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of

