

Statement of Principles
concerning
ACUTE LYMPHOID LEUKAEMIA

ICD CODE: 204.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that, on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **acute lymphoid leukaemia and death from acute lymphoid leukaemia** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **acute lymphoid leukaemia or death from acute lymphoid leukaemia** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) for ALL L3 subtype only, infection with Epstein-Barr virus, at least one year before the clinical onset of acute lymphoid leukaemia; and where infection with Epstein-Barr virus did not occur other than during the eligible service; or
 - (b) for Adult T-cell lymphoma-leukaemia only, infection with HTLV-1 virus before the clinical onset of acute lymphoid leukaemia; or
 - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for acute lymphoid leukaemia.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(c) applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **acute lymphoid leukaemia** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **acute lymphoid leukaemia** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“acute lymphoid leukaemia” means a progressive malignant neoplasm derived from lymphoid cells and demonstrating increased numbers of circulating malignant lymphocytes and lymphoblasts, attracting ICD code 204.0;

“ALL L3 subtype” is a subtype of acute lymphatic leukaemia under the French-American-British (FAB) classification, being characterised by large, uniform cells having moderately abundant cytoplasm with deep basophilia and prominent vacuoles, and a regular shaped nucleus with prominent nuclei;

“being infected with HTLV-1” means serological evidence of infection within the retro virus human T-cell lymphotropic virus Type 1, attracting ICD code 079.51;

“Epstein-Barr virus” means a DNA virus of the herpes group which infects B lymphocytes and is the cause of infectious mononucleosis, attracting ICD code 075;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

