

REVOKED

Statement of Principles

concerning

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE  
RECTUM**

**ICD CODE: 154.0, 154.1**

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 **malignant neoplasm of the rectum** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the rectum** 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* (the Act), that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **malignant neoplasm of the rectum** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the rectum** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) smoking cigarettes or other tobacco products for at least 15 pack-years, all or part of which were smoked at least 30 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or
  - (b) suffering from an adenoma of the rectum prior to the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or

- (c) suffering from ulcerative colitis prior to the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or
  - (d) suffering from Crohn's disease prior to the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or
  - (e) suffering from familial polyposis coli prior to the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or
  - (f) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the pelvic region more than 10 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the rectum; or
  - (g) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the rectum.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraph **1(a) to 1(g)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(g)** applies only where:
- (a) the person's **malignant neoplasm of the rectum** was suffered before a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **malignant neoplasm of the rectum** 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:

**“adenoma of the rectum”** means a benign epithelial tumour in which the cells form recognisable glandular structures, or in which the cells are clearly derived from glandular epithelium, attracting ICD code 211.4;

**“Crohn's disease”** means a chronic granulomatous disease of the gastrointestinal tract characterised by scarring and thickening of the bowel wall and the presence of epithelioid cell granulomata also known as regional enteritis, attracting ICD code 555;

**“familial polyposis coli”** means a genetic disorder in which there is the formation of numerous polyps in the gastro-intestinal tract attracting ICD code 211.3;

**“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;

**“malignant neoplasm of the rectum”** means a primary malignant neoplasm of the mucosa of the rectum, which is the distal portion of the large intestine, extending from the rectosigmoid junction (approximant to the third sacral vertebra) and ending at the junction with the anal canal, attracting ICD codes 154.0 or 154.1;

**“pack-year”** means 7300 cigarettes, or 1460 cigars, or 7.3 kg of pipe tobacco;

**“therapeutic radiation”** means medical treatment by irradiation to the person with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

**“ulcerative colitis”** means a chronic recurrent inflammatory disease of the rectum, usually limited to the mucosa and submucosa; characterised by diffuse inflammatory cell infiltrate and crypt abscesses, attracting ICD code 556.

Dated this *Eighteenth* day of *October* 1995

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN