

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE COLON

ICD CODES: 153

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.37 of 1995; and
 - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **malignant neoplasm of the colon** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the colon**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**malignant neoplasm of the colon**” means a primary malignant neoplasm of the mucosa of colon, which is part of the large intestine which extends from the caecum to the rectosigmoid junction, attracting ICD code 153.

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 the colon** 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 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 **malignant neoplasm of the colon** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the colon** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) suffering from a colorectal adenomatous polyp before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (b) smoking cigarettes or other tobacco products, where the equivalent of at least 15 pack years were consumed 30 years or more before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (c) drinking at least 250 kilograms of alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks) within any 25 year period before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (d) having had an altered dietary pattern resulting in a 50% increase in animal fat consumption and a 50% decrease in dietary fibre consumption for at least 20 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (e) suffering from ulcerative colitis before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (f) suffering from Crohn's disease before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (g) suffering from familial polyposis coli before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (h) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation involving the abdominal or pelvic region 10 years or more before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (j) being physically inactive for at least 10 years more than five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or
 - (k) being occupationally exposed to asbestos for five years more than 10 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the colon; or

- (m) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the colon.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

- 6. Paragraph 5(m) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, malignant neoplasm of the colon where the person's malignant neoplasm of the colon 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:

“a course of therapeutic radiation” means one or more fractions (treatment portions) of therapeutic radiation given with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with ionising radiation;

“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;

“animal fat” means fat contained in or derived from:

(a) beef, veal, pork, mutton or lamb or offal which may be in any form, for example, main dish, sandwich or mixed dish; in preserved meats, ham, frankfurters, sausages, salami, bologna, deli meat items, lard and bacon; and

(b) dairy products, for example: milk, cream, sour cream, sherbet or ice milk, icecream, yogurt, cottage cheese, ricotta cheese, cream cheese, other cheese and butter;

“being physically inactive” means being unable to walk or stand and being mobile only in a wheel chair, or other similar device or vehicle;

“Crohn's disease” means an inflammatory disease of the digestive system, involving the bowel wall, characterised by the presence of epithelioid cell granuloma, often with giant cells, attracting ICD code 555;

“dietary fibre” means that part of food consumed, particularly in vegetables, fruits and cereals, that resists digestion by gastrointestinal enzymes in the gastrointestinal tract;

“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;

“occupationally exposed to asbestos” means applying, cutting, spraying, drilling or removing asbestos fibres as the significant part of the person’s work;

“pack-year” means 7,300 cigarettes, or 1,460 cigars, or 7.3kg of pipe tobacco;

“relevant service” means:

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

“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 colon, usually limited to the mucosa and submucosa; characterised by diffuse inflammatory cell infiltrate and crypt abscesses, attracting ICD code of 556.

Application

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

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