

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE
OESOPHAGUS**

ICD CODE: 150

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.382 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 oesophagus** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus**” means a primary malignancy of the mucosa of the structure which begins proximally with the lower border of the hypopharynx and extends distally to the distal border of the lower oesophageal sphincter, attracting ICD code 150.

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 oesophagus** 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, the factors set out in at least one of 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 oesophagus** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:

- (a) for squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus only:
- (i) smoking five to ten cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least ten years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
 - (ii) smoking more than ten cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
 - (iii) drinking at least 250 kilograms of alcohol before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
 - (iv) ingestion of lye where ingestion occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
- (b) for adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus only:
- (i) smoking ten to twenty cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least ten years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
 - (ii) smoking more than twenty cigarettes per day or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, for at least five years, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
 - (iii) drinking at least 500 kilograms of alcohol before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or

- (iv) suffering from Barrett's oesophagus for at least ten years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus; or
- (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

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

“adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus” means a primary carcinoma derived from oesophageal glandular tissue;

“Barrett's oesophagus” means that the normal squamous epithelium lining the oesophagus becomes replaced by metaplastic columnar epithelium. It may occur as a complication of chronic gastro-oesophageal reflux disease;

“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 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

“ingestion of lye” means swallowing any amount of lye. Lye means any alkaline solution resulting from vegetable ashes by leaching. Household lye is usually a crude mixture of sodium hydroxide with some sodium carbonate. Lye was commonly used for washing purposes and as a liquid drain cleaner;

“relevant service” means:

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

“squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus” means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the squamous cells of the oesophagus.

Application

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

Dated this *Sixteenth* day of *August* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN