

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

ICD CODES: 205.1, 206.1, 208.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument Nos.100 of 1995 and 148 of 1996; and
 - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **chronic myeloid leukaemia and death from chronic myeloid leukaemia**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**chronic myeloid leukaemia**” means a haematological neoplasm characterised by the clonal proliferation and accumulation of mature myeloid cells and their progenitors, and typically associated with the presence of the Philadelphia chromosome, attracting ICD code 205.1, 206.1 or 208.1.

Note: For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, this definition includes the conditions known as chronic monocytic leukaemia and chronic leukaemia of unspecified cell type, chronic granulocytic leukaemia, chronic myeloblastic leukaemia, chronic myelocytic leukaemia and chronic myelogenous leukaemia.

Basis for determining the factors

3. On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that

chronic myeloid leukaemia and death from chronic myeloid leukaemia can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans 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 exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **chronic myeloid leukaemia** or **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia, where the first exposure occurred more than five years before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (b) being occupationally exposed to external ionising radiation for a period or periods of time totalling at least six months, where the first exposure occurred more than five years before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (c) smoking at least 35 pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia, and, where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset occurred within five years of cessation; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(d) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, chronic myeloid leukaemia where the person's chronic myeloid leukaemia was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(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 ionising radiation administered with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

“being occupationally exposed to external ionising radiation” means working in an environment which entails protracted low-level exposure to external radiation, such as radiographers or any X-ray technicians, X-ray assistants or workers involved in the production of nuclear power, manufacture of nuclear weapons, enrichment and processing of nuclear fuel, or nuclear reactor or nuclear weapons research;

“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;

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

“relevant service” means:

- (a) eligible war service (other than operational service); or
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service).

Application

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

Dated this **Twenty-second** day of
January 1997

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN