

**Revocation and Determination**

of

**Statement of Principles**  
concerning

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE  
STOMACH**

**ICD CODE: 151**

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No.20 of 1994; and
  - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **malignant neoplasm of the stomach** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**malignant neoplasm of the stomach**" means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the stomach, attracting ICD code 151, but excluding soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease.

Note to user (this note is not part of the legal wording of the instrument):

If soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or Hodgkin's disease of the stomach is claimed, reference is to be made to the relevant Statement of Principles for that disease.

### **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 **malignant neoplasm of the stomach and death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach** 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, at least one of the factors set out 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, **malignant neoplasm of the stomach** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the stomach** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) for carcinoma of the stomach only,
    - (i) smoking at least 20 pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach, and, where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within five years of cessation; or
    - (ii) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the region of the stomach, where the first exposure occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
  - (b) for carcinoma of the fundus, body, antrum or pylorus of the stomach only,
    - (i) contracting *Helicobacter pylori* infection at least ten years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
    - (ii) having undergone a partial gastrectomy at least 15 years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or
    - (iii) suffering from chronic atrophic gastritis before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the stomach; or

- (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the stomach.

### **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 stomach where the person's malignant neoplasm of the stomach 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;

**“carcinoma of the fundus, body, antrum or pylorus of the stomach”** means a carcinoma that has arisen in the mucosa of any part of the stomach, excluding that part of the stomach immediately adjacent to and surrounding the opening of the oesophagus (the cardia of the stomach) that is distinguished histologically by the presence of cardiac glands and the absence of parietal (acid secreting) and chief (pepsin secreting) cells;

**“chronic atrophic gastritis”** means inflammation involving the full thickness of the gastric mucosa, associated with loss of normal glandular structures, as evidenced by histopathological examination, attracting ICD code 535.1;

**“*Helicobacter pylori* infection”** means an infection of the mucus layer overlying gastric-type epithelium by the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, attracting ICD code 041.86;

**“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;

“**partial gastrectomy**” means surgical removal of part of the stomach;

“**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 **Ninth** day of **September**  
1997

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN