

**Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning  
**GOITRE**

**ICD CODES: 240, 241, 242.1 - 242.3**

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **goitre** and **death from goitre**.  
  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**goitre**" means an enlargement of the thyroid gland, which may be generalised or focal, causing a palpable or visible swelling in the front part of the neck or a thyroid gland volume greater than the 97th centile by ultrasound, attracting ICD code 240, 241 or an ICD code in the range 242.1 to 242.3, and excludes goitre due to malignant or benign neoplasm of the thyroid, thyroiditis and Graves' disease.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **goitre** and **death from goitre** 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 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 **goitre** or **death from goitre** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:

- (a) suffering from iodine deficiency within the 12 months immediately before the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (b) being treated with a specified drug before the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (c) smoking at least three pack-years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products immediately before the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (d) having been within four kilometres of the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosions on either Hiroshima or Nagasaki within the seven days immediately following the explosion on either of those cities before the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (e) suffering from hypothyroidism at the time of the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (f) suffering from hyperthyroidism at the time of the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (g) suffering from thyroiditis at the time of the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (h) suffering from amyloidosis at the time of the clinical onset of goitre; or
- (j) suffering from iodine deficiency within the 12 months immediately before the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (k) being treated with a specified drug before the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (m) smoking at least three pack-years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products immediately before the clinical worsening of goitre; or

- (n) suffering from hypothyroidism at the time of the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (o) suffering from hyperthyroidism at the time of the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (p) suffering from thyroiditis at the time of the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (q) suffering from amyloidosis at the time of the clinical worsening of goitre; or
- (r) being treated with an anti-thyroid drug before the clinical worsening of goitre, and, where administration of the anti-thyroid drug has ceased the clinical worsening occurred within 28 days of cessation; or
- (s) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for goitre.

#### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

6. Paragraphs 5(j) to 5(s) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, goitre where the person's goitre 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:

**“amyloidosis”** means a group of conditions of diverse causes characterised by the accumulation of insoluble fibrillar proteins (amyloid) in various organs and tissues of the body such that vital function is compromised, attracting ICD code 277.3;

**“being treated with an anti-thyroid drug”** means treatment with one of the following drugs, on at least a daily basis for two weeks, carbimazole, methimazole, propylthiouracil, or perchlorate;

**“being treated with a specified drug”** means being treated with any of the drugs (including where those drugs are contained in preparations) listed in the following Table of Drugs, under the circumstances as specified in the Table, with regard to the mode of administration, dose level, minimum duration of treatment, and temporality (time relationship between the last administration of the drug and the onset or worsening of the disease, as the case may be, where the administration of the drug has ceased).

Table of Drugs

Drug or Group of Drugs	Mode *	Dose	Minimum Duration of Treatment	Temporality
iodine containing medications	IV, IM, O, T	at least 1mg of iodine daily	one month	within the 28 days immediately before
iodine containing radiographic dyes	IV, intrarterial, intrathecal, intralymphatic, O	one dose		within the three months immediately before
amiodarone	O, IV	any daily dose	two weeks	within the 12 months immediately before
lithium	O	any daily dose	one month	within the 28 days immediately before
carbamazepine	O	any daily dose	six months	within the 28 days immediately before

\* Abbreviations: IV = intravenous; IM = intramuscular; O = oral, T = topical

**“hyperthyroidism”** means hyperactivity of the thyroid gland involving overproduction of thyroid hormone by the thyroid gland itself;

**“hypothyroidism”** means the functional state resulting from insufficiency of thyroid hormones, attracting ICD code 243 or 244;

**“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;

**“iodine deficiency”** means an average dietary intake of iodine of less than 150 µg/day or a urinary iodine level of less than 100 µg/L;

**“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;

“**thyroiditis**” means inflammation of the thyroid gland, attracting ICD code 245.

Dated this ***Fifth*** day of ***May*** 1998

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN