

## Revocation and Determination

of

## Statement of Principles concerning

# NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

ICD-10-AM CODES: C82, C83.0 - C83.6, C83.8, C83.9, C84, C85

### *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.45 of 1999; 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 **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** and **death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**non-Hodgkin's lymphoma**" means a malignant neoplastic disease arising from the lymphoid components of the immune system, characterised by the absence of the Reed-Sternberg cells, attracting ICD-10-AM code C82 or a code in the range C83.0 to C83.6 or C83.8, C83.9, C84 or C85. This definition includes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma arising within parenchymal organs and excludes Burkitt's lymphoma, plasma cell malignancy, hairy cell leukemia and chronic lymphoid leukemia.

### **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 **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** 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, **non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** or **death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (b) having received a solid organ or bone marrow transplant before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (c) having received systemic immunosuppressive drug therapy for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, dermatitis herpetiformis or chronic glomerulonephritis within the ten years immediately before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (d) spraying or decanting a herbicide containing 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) or 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) on at least 100 days, in circumstances likely to result in inhalation or absorption of the herbicide, at least five years before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (e) for adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma only, being infected with HTLV-1 before the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (f) for primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the small intestine only, suffering from coeliac disease at the time of the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or
  - (g) for primary B-cell lymphoma of the stomach only, having *Helicobacter pylori* infection at the time of the clinical onset of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or

- (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

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

- 6. Paragraph 5(h) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma where the person's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma 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.

### **Inclusion of Statements of Principles**

- 7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

### **Other definitions**

- 8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma”** means a malignancy of mature T lymphocytes with onset in adulthood characterised by circulating pleomorphic malignant lymphocytes, skin lesions, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly and lytic bone lesions;

**“being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)”** means serological evidence of infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus;

**“being infected with HTLV-1”** means serological evidence of infection within the retro virus human T-cell lymphotropic virus Type 1;

**“coeliac disease”** means a malabsorptive disease of the small intestine precipitated by the ingestion of gluten-containing foods. It is also known as gluten enteropathy and non-tropical sprue;

**“death from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma”** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;

**“having received a solid organ or bone marrow transplant”** means having had an hepatic, renal, or cardiac transplantation or bone marrow ablation and transplant, including autologous stem cell transplantation;

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

**“ICD-10-AM code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), effective date of 1 July 1998, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86451 340 3;

**“Reed-Sternberg cell”** means a giant cell with two or more nuclei with prominent nucleoli with perinucleolar halos, also known as a giant histiocytic cell, and which is the common histological characteristic of Hodgkin’s disease;

**“relevant service”** means:

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

**“systemic immunosuppressive drug therapy”** means the therapeutic administration continuously for a period of at least three months of a drug or drugs the primary function of which is suppression of the immune response;

**“terminal event”** means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- a) pneumonia;
- b) respiratory failure;
- c) cardiac arrest;
- d) circulatory failure; or
- e) cessation of brain function.

### **Application**

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

Dated this *Twenty-eighth* day of *October* 1999

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN