

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

HAEMORRHOIDS

ICD-10-AM CODES: I84, O22.4, O87.2

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.74 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 **haemorrhoids** and **death from haemorrhoids**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**haemorrhoids**" means symptomatic external and/or internal haemorrhoids, attracting ICD codes I84, O22.4 and O87.2. This definition does not include anorectal varices.

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 **haemorrhoids** and **death from haemorrhoids** 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, **haemorrhoids** or **death from haemorrhoids** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) being pregnant within the two weeks before the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
 - (b) straining at stool due to constipation or diarrhoea within the two weeks before the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
 - (c) suffering from spinal cord injury at the time of the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
 - (d) suffering from chronic urinary obstruction at the time of the clinical onset of haemorrhoids; or
 - (e) being pregnant within the two weeks before the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
 - (f) straining at stool due to constipation or diarrhoea within the two weeks before the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
 - (g) suffering from spinal cord injury at the time of the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
 - (h) suffering from chronic urinary obstruction at the time of the clinical worsening of haemorrhoids; or
 - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for haemorrhoids.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

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

“chronic urinary obstruction” means long standing obstruction to outflow of urine from the bladder;

“death from haemorrhoids” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s haemorrhoids;

“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;

“relevant service” means:

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

“spinal cord injury” means an injury to the spinal cord that has resulted in permanent motor and sensory deficits below the level of the lesion;

“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 *Fourteenth* day of *June* 2000

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN