

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE BRAIN

ICD-9-CM CODE: 191

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.203 of 1995; 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 brain** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the brain**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**malignant neoplasm of the brain**” means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the brain, including neuroepithelial tumour or germ cell tumour, but excluding nerve sheath tumour, soft tissue sarcoma, lymphoma, pituitary tumour or tumour of meningeal and related tissue, attracting ICD-9-CM code 191.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **malignant neoplasm of the brain and death from malignant neoplasm of the brain** 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 **malignant neoplasm of the brain** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the brain** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the brain; or
 - (b) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the head or neck before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the brain, where the first exposure to therapeutic radiation occurred at least two years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the brain; or
 - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the brain.

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 brain where the person's malignant neoplasm of the brain 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.

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:

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

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

ICD-9-CM 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;

“neuroepithelial tumour” means one of the following:

- (i) astrocytic tumour; or
- (ii) oligodendroglial tumour; or
- (iii) ependymal cell tumour; or
- (iv) mixed glioma; or
- (v) neuroepithelial tumour of uncertain origin (astroblastoma, polar spongioblastoma, gliomatosis cerebri); or
- (vi) tumour of the choroid plexus; or
- (vii) neuronal and mixed neuronal-glia tumour; or
- (viii) pineal parenchymal tumour; or
- (ix) embryonal tumour (medulloepithelioma, neuroblastoma, ependymblastoma, primitive neuroectodermal tumour, medulloblastoma);

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service;

“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 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Twenty-seventh* day of *April* 1999

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN