

REPATRIATION MEDICAL AUTHORITY

INSTRUMENT NO. 108 of 2007

VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986
MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION ACT 2004

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR TABLING

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority), under subsection 196B(8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA) revokes Instrument No. 36 of 1998 determined under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA concerning **cirrhosis of the liver** and **death from cirrhosis of the liver**.
2. The Authority is of the view that on the sound medical-scientific evidence available it is more probable than not that **cirrhosis of the liver** and **death from cirrhosis of the liver** can be related to particular kinds of service. The Authority has therefore determined pursuant to subsection 196B(3) of the VEA a Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 108 of 2007 concerning cirrhosis of the liver. This Instrument will in effect replace the revoked Statement of Principles.
3. The provisions of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA) relating to claims for compensation commenced on 1 July 2004. Claims under section 319 of the MRCA for acceptance of liability for a service injury sustained, a service disease contracted or service death on or after 1 July 2004 are determined by the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission by reference to Statements of Principles issued by the Authority pursuant to the VEA.
4. The Statement of Principles sets out the factors that must exist, and which of those factors must be related to the following kinds of service rendered by a person:
 - eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
 - defence service (other than hazardous service) under the VEA;
 - peacetime service under the MRCA,

before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, cirrhosis of the liver or death from cirrhosis of the liver is connected with the circumstances of that service.

5. This new instrument results from an investigation notified by the Authority in the Government Notices Gazette of 2 November 2005 concerning cirrhosis of the liver in accordance with section 196G of the VEA. The investigation involved an examination of the sound medical-scientific evidence now available to the

Authority, including the sound medical-scientific evidence it has previously considered.

6. The contents of the new Instrument are in similar terms as the revoked Instruments. Comparing the new and the revoked Instruments, the differences include:

- adopting the latest revised Instrument format, which commenced in 2005;
- deleting the ICD code from the Instrument header;
- revising the definition of 'cirrhosis of the liver' in clause 3;
- revising factors 6(a), 6(b), 6(x) and 6(y) concerning 'alcohol';
- revising factors 6(c) and 6(z) concerning 'hepatitis B virus';
- revising factors 6(d) and 6(aa) concerning 'hepatitis C virus';
- new factors 6(e) and 6(bb) concerning 'hepatitis D virus';
- new factors 6(f) and 6(cc) concerning 'human immunodeficiency virus';
- new factors 6(g) and 6(dd) concerning 'steatohepatitis';
- new factors 6(h) and 6(ee) concerning 'chronic hepatitis';
- revising factors 6(i) and 6(ff) concerning 'severe right-sided cardiac failure';
- new factors 6(j) and 6(gg) concerning 'ionising radiation';
- revising factors 6(k) and 6(hh) concerning 'thorium dioxide (Thorotrast)';
- revising factors 6(l) and 6(ii) concerning 'vitamin A';
- revising factors 6(m) and 6(jj) concerning 'methotrexate';
- revising factors 6(n) and 6(kk) concerning 'carbon tetrachloride';
- revising factors 6(p) and 6(mm) concerning 'blockage to the passage of bile';
- revising factors 6(q) and 6(nn) concerning 'iron overload';
- new factors 6(s) and 6(pp) concerning 'alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency';
- new factors 6(t) and 6(qq) concerning 'Gaucher's disease';
- new factors 6(u) and 6(rr) concerning 'Wilson's disease';
- new factors 6(v) and 6(ss) concerning 'Budd-Chiari syndrome';
- new factors 6(w) and 6(tt) concerning 'veno-occlusive disease';
- revising definitions of 'autoimmune chronic active hepatitis'; 'relevant service' and 'severe right-sided cardiac failure';
- new definitions of 'alcohol'; 'Budd-Chiari syndrome'; 'chronic hepatitis'; 'chronic infection with the hepatitis B virus'; 'chronic infection with the hepatitis C virus'; 'chronic infection with the hepatitis D virus'; 'death from cirrhosis of the liver'; 'ICD-10-AM code'; 'iron overload'; 'terminal event' and 'veno-occlusive disease';
- deleting definitions of 'alcohol (contained within alcoholic drinks)'; 'chronic hepatitis B'; 'chronic hepatitis C'; 'daily average of at least 50,000 international units of vitamin A'; 'haemochromatosis'; 'ICD code'; 'occupationally exposed to carbon tetrachloride'; 'schistosomiasis'; and 'thorotrast'; and
- specifying a date of effect for the Instrument in clause 11.

7. Further changes to the format of the Instrument reflect the commencement of the MRCA and clarify that pursuant to subsection 196B(3A) of the VEA, the Statement of Principles has been determined for the purposes of both the VEA and the MRCA.

8. Prior to determining this instrument, the Authority advertised its intention to undertake an investigation in relation to cirrhosis of the liver in the Government Notices Gazette of 2 November 2005, and circulated a copy of the notice of intention to investigate to a wide range of organisations representing veterans, service personnel and their dependants. The Authority invited submissions from the Repatriation Commission, organisations and persons referred to in section 196E of the VEA, and any person having expertise in the field. No submissions were received for consideration by the Authority during the investigation.
9. The determining of this new instrument finalises the investigation in relation to cirrhosis of the liver as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 2 November 2005.
10. A list of references relating to the above condition is available, on written request, from the Repatriation Medical Authority Secretariat.