



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

## Statement of Principles concerning

# CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

## No. 47 of 2014

for the purposes of the

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*  
and

*Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*

### Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning chronic myeloid leukaemia No. 47 of 2014.

### Determination

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No. 15 of 2003, as amended by Instrument No. 47 of 2011, concerning chronic myeloid leukaemia; and
  - (b) determines in their place this Statement of Principles.

### Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
  - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **chronic myeloid leukaemia** and **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**chronic myeloid leukaemia**" means a malignant myeloproliferative disorder characterised by the clonal proliferation of myeloid cells in the bone marrow and their accumulation in the peripheral blood, and which is associated with the presence of the Philadelphia chromosome on cytogenetic analysis, or the presence of the BCR-ABL1 fusion gene or its product, BCR-ABL1 fusion mRNA, on molecular analysis. Chronic myeloid leukaemia is also known as chronic myelogenous leukaemia,

chronic myelocytic leukaemia, chronic granulocytic leukaemia and chronic myeloblastic leukaemia. This definition excludes chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia.

- (c) Chronic myeloid leukaemia attracts ICD-10-AM code C92.1.
- (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**chronic myeloid leukaemia**" is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

#### **Basis for determining the factors**

- 4. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chronic myeloid leukaemia** and **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

#### **Factors that must be related to service**

- 5. Subject to clause 7, at least one of the factors set out in clause 6 must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

#### **Factors**

- 6. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **chronic myeloid leukaemia** or **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
  - (a) smoking at least 15 pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products, before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia has occurred within ten years of cessation; or
  - (b) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of at least 0.01 sievert of ionising radiation to the bone marrow at least one year before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
  - (c) undergoing treatment with radioactive iodine for cancer before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia, where the first exposure occurred at least one year before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
  - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic myeloid leukaemia.

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

- 7. Paragraph 6(d) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, chronic myeloid leukaemia where the person's chronic myeloid leukaemia was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

## **Inclusion of Statements of Principles**

8. 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 as in force from time to time.

## **Other definitions**

9. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**"cumulative equivalent dose"** means the total dose of ionising radiation received by the particular organ or tissue. The formula used to calculate the cumulative equivalent dose allows doses from multiple types of ionising radiation to be combined, by accounting for their differing biological effect. The unit of equivalent dose is the sievert. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, the calculation of cumulative equivalent dose excludes doses received from normal background radiation, but includes therapeutic radiation, diagnostic radiation, cosmic radiation at high altitude, radiation from occupation-related sources and radiation from nuclear explosions or accidents;

**"death from chronic myeloid leukaemia"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's chronic myeloid leukaemia;

**"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), Eighth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2013, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, and having ISBN 978-1-74128-213-9;

**"pack-years of cigarettes, or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products"** means a calculation of consumption where one pack-year of cigarettes equals twenty tailor-made cigarettes per day for a period of one calendar year, or 7 300 cigarettes. One tailor-made cigarette approximates one gram of tobacco or one gram of cigar or pipe tobacco by weight. One pack-year of tailor-made cigarettes equates to 7.3 kilograms of smoking tobacco by weight. Tobacco products mean cigarettes, pipe tobacco or cigars, smoked alone or in any combination;

**"relevant service"** means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA;
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA;
- (d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
- (e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (f) non-warlike service under the MRCA;

**"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

- 10.** This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the MRCA applies.

## Date of effect

- 11.** This Instrument takes effect from 7 May 2014.

Dated this *twenty-fourth* day of *April* 2014

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

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON