



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**VON WILLEBRAND'S DISEASE**  
**No. 41 of 2015**

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 von Willebrand's disease No. 41 of 2015.

**Determination**

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No. 57 of 2007 concerning von Willebrand's disease; and
  - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

3.
  - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **von Willebrand's disease** and **death from von Willebrand's disease**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**von Willebrand's disease**" means a genetic disorder of platelet function characterised by a deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand factor, resulting in an increased risk of bleeding.
  - (c) Von Willebrand's disease attracts ICD-10-AM code D68.0.
  - (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**von Willebrand's disease**" 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 **von Willebrand's disease** and **death from von Willebrand's disease** 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 **von Willebrand's disease** or **death from von Willebrand's disease** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
  - (a) being pregnant within the six weeks before the clinical worsening of von Willebrand's disease; or
  - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for von Willebrand's disease.

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

7. Paragraphs **6(a)** and **6(b)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, von Willebrand's disease where the person's von Willebrand's disease 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:

**"death from von Willebrand's disease"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's von Willebrand's disease;

**"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;

**"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 27 January 2015.

Dated this *nineteenth* day of *December* 2014

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed at the direction of:

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PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON