



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

**Statement of Principles
concerning
HYPOPITUITARISM
(Reasonable Hypothesis)
(No. 11 of 2019)**

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 21 December 2018

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Saunders'.

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson

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1 Name

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *hypopituitarism (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 11 of 2019).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 28 January 2019.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 Repeal

The Statement of Principles concerning hypopituitarism No. 76 of 2009 (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2013C00177) made under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the VEA is repealed.

5 Application

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* applies.

6 Definitions

The terms defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary have the meaning given when used in this instrument.

7 Kind of injury, disease or death to which this Statement of Principles relates

- (1) This Statement of Principles is about hypopituitarism and death from hypopituitarism.

Meaning of hypopituitarism

- (2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, hypopituitarism:
- (a) means an endocrine disease characterised by biochemically-documented deficient production of one or more pituitary hormones, sufficient to produce clinical symptoms and signs, and to necessitate pituitary hormone replacement therapy, as a result of loss, damage or dysfunction of pituitary hormone-secreting cells in the pituitary gland, hypothalamus or pituitary stalk; and
 - (b) excludes heritable and congenital forms of hypopituitarism.

Note 1: Pituitary hormones are growth hormone, follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinising hormone, adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), prolactin, oxytocin and antidiuretic hormone (ADH).

Note 2: The clinical presentation of hypopituitarism can be acute or chronic, and the order and amount of the specific hormone deficiency depends on the nature and speed of damage to the hypothalamic–pituitary region.

- (3) While hypopituitarism attracts ICD-10-AM code E23.0, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of hypopituitarism is that given in subsection (2).
- (4) For subsection (3), a reference to an ICD-10-AM code is a reference to the code assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in *The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM)*, Tenth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2017, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, ISBN 978-1-76007-296-4.

Death from hypopituitarism

- (5) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, hypopituitarism, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's hypopituitarism.

Note: *terminal event* is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

8 Basis for determining the factors

The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that hypopituitarism and death from hypopituitarism 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 MRCA.

Note: *MRCA*, *relevant service* and *VEA* are defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

9 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting hypopituitarism or death from hypopituitarism with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) having an autoimmune disorder involving the pituitary gland at the time of the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (2) having a disorder from the specified list of infiltrative, inflammatory or granulomatous disorders, involving the pituitary gland or hypothalamus, at the time of the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

Note: *specified list of infiltrative, inflammatory or granulomatous disorders* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (3) having infection with human immunodeficiency virus before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

- (4) having a viral, bacterial, fungal or protozoal infection of the pituitary gland, hypothalamus, brain or cerebral meninges, within the five years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (5) having Hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome within the five years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

Note: *Hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (6) having moderate to severe traumatic brain injury within the ten years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (7) having concussion within the five years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (8) participating in a high impact contact activity involving blows to the head:
 - (a) on at least 50 occasions within a continuous period of 20 years; and
 - (b) where the first occasion occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

Note: *blows to the head* and *high impact contact activity* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (9) having a subarachnoid haemorrhage within the ten years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (10) having haemorrhage or ischaemia involving the pituitary gland or hypothalamus within the ten years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

Note: Haemorrhage or ischaemia of the pituitary gland includes pituitary apoplexy.

- (11) having severe peripartum or postpartum haemorrhage before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (12) having cerebral oedema from diabetic ketoacidosis within the five years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (13) having surgery involving the pituitary gland, or intracranial surgery, within the ten years before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (14) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer, where the pituitary or hypothalamus was in the field of radiation, before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (15) having a space occupying lesion that involves, or impinges on, the pituitary gland or hypothalamus at the time of the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;

- (16) being treated with an immune checkpoint inhibitor, or an interferon, within the one year before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
Note: *immune checkpoint inhibitor* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (17) regularly using intranasal cocaine such that there is destruction of the nasal septum, palate or paranasal sinuses before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
- (18) for lymphocytic hypophysitis only, being pregnant within the six months before the clinical onset of hypopituitarism;
Note: *lymphocytic hypophysitis* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (19) having an autoimmune disorder involving the pituitary gland at the time of the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (20) having a disorder from the specified list of infiltrative, inflammatory or granulomatous disorders, involving the pituitary gland or hypothalamus, at the time of the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
Note: *specified list of infiltrative, inflammatory or granulomatous disorders* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (21) having infection with human immunodeficiency virus before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (22) having a viral, bacterial, fungal or protozoal infection of the pituitary gland, hypothalamus, brain or cerebral meninges, within the five years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (23) having Hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome within the five years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
Note: *Hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (24) having moderate to severe traumatic brain injury within the ten years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (25) having concussion within the five years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (26) participating in a high impact contact activity involving blows to the head:
(a) on at least 50 occasions within a continuous period of 20 years;
and
(b) where the first occasion occurred at least five years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
Note: *blows to the head* and *high impact contact activity* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (27) having a subarachnoid haemorrhage within the ten years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;

- (28) having haemorrhage or ischaemia involving the pituitary gland or hypothalamus within the ten years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- Note: Haemorrhage or ischaemia of the pituitary gland includes pituitary apoplexy.
- (29) having severe peripartum or postpartum haemorrhage before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (30) having cerebral oedema from diabetic ketoacidosis within the five years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (31) having surgery involving the pituitary gland, or intracranial surgery, within the ten years before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (32) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer, where the pituitary or hypothalamus was in the field of radiation, before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (33) having a space occupying lesion that involves, or impinges on, the pituitary gland or hypothalamus at the time of the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (34) being treated with an immune checkpoint inhibitor, or an interferon, within the one year before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- Note: *immune checkpoint inhibitor* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (35) regularly using intranasal cocaine such that there is destruction of the nasal septum, palate or paranasal sinuses before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- (36) for lymphocytic hypophysitis only, being pregnant within the six months before the clinical worsening of hypopituitarism;
- Note: *lymphocytic hypophysitis* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (37) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for hypopituitarism.

10 Relationship to service

- (1) The existence in a person of any factor referred to in section 9, must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.
- (2) The factors set out in subsections 9(19) to (9)(37) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, hypopituitarism where the person's hypopituitarism was suffered or contracted before or during (but did not arise out of) the person's relevant service.

11 Factors referring to an injury or disease covered by another Statement of Principles

In this Statement of Principles:

- (1) if a factor referred to in section 9 applies in relation to a person; and
- (2) that factor refers to an injury or disease in respect of which a Statement of Principles has been determined under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA;

then the factors in that Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.

Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 6

1 Definitions

In this instrument:

blows to the head means episodes in which blunt, non-penetrating rotatory or linear acceleration or deceleration forces, of at least the intensity that would be received from a forceful punch to the head from a gloved fist, are applied (directly or indirectly) to the head, with or without loss of consciousness.

Hantavirus haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome means a clinical syndrome of acute shock, vascular leakage, thrombocytopaenia, hypotension and acute renal failure caused by hantaviruses from the family Bunyaviridae, which is endemic in parts of Asia and Europe. This definition includes, but is not limited to, Korean haemorrhagic fever, epidemic haemorrhagic fever and nephropathia epidemica.

high impact contact activity means a sport or pastime in which there is forceful impact of the head with another object or person.

hypopituitarism—see subsection 7(2).

immune checkpoint inhibitor means a form of cancer immunotherapy that uses monoclonal antibodies targeting the immune checkpoint proteins. Examples include, but are not limited to, ipilumab, tremelimumab, nivolumab and pembrolizumab.

iron overload means an accumulation of excess iron in tissues and organs which has been confirmed by elevated ferritin or transferrin saturation levels.

Note: Causes include, but are not limited to, haemochromatosis and blood transfusions.

lymphocytic hypophysitis means an autoimmune condition in which the pituitary gland becomes infiltrated by lymphocytes, resulting in pituitary enlargement and impaired function.

MRCA means the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

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.

Note: **MRCA** and **VEA** are also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

specified list of infiltrative, inflammatory or granulomatous disorders
means:

- (a) a primary or metastatic neoplasm;
- (b) amyloidosis;
- (c) Castleman disease;
- (d) Crohn's disease;
- (e) eosinophilic granuloma;
- (f) germinoma;
- (g) giant cell granuloma;
- (h) granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener granulomatosis);
- (i) histiocytosis;
- (j) iron overload;
- (k) sarcoidosis; or
- (l) Takayasu arteritis.

Note: ***iron overload*** is also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

terminal event means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes the following:

- (a) pneumonia;
- (b) respiratory failure;
- (c) cardiac arrest;
- (d) circulatory failure; or
- (e) cessation of brain function.

VEA means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.