Statement of Principles
centering
TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA
(No. 78 of 2015)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles.

Dated 19 June 2015

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

[Signature]

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson

Statement of Principles concerning trigeminal neuralgia (No. 78 of 2015)
Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986
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1 Definitions ............................................................................................................................7
1 Name
This is the Statement of Principles concerning trigeminal neuralgia (No. 78 of 2015).

2 Commencement
This instrument commences on 20 July 2015.

3 Authority
This instrument is made under subsection 196B(3) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

4 Revocation
The Statement of Principles concerning trigeminal neuralgia No. 55 of 2009 made under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA is revoked.

5 Application
This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120B of the VEA or section 339 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 trigeminal neuralgia and death from trigeminal neuralgia.
Meaning of trigeminal neuralgia
(2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, trigeminal neuralgia:

(a) means a clinical facial pain syndrome characterised by recurring paroxysmal attacks of severely intense electric shock-like, shooting, stabbing or sharp pain lasting from a fraction of a second to two minutes, occurring in the distribution of one or more divisions of the trigeminal nerve, which are precipitated by innocuous stimuli to the affected side of the face, and without symptoms in the interval between attacks. This condition is also known as Tic Douloureux; and

(b) includes classic and symptomatic (secondary) forms of trigeminal neuralgia, but excludes peripheral painful post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy, persistent idiopathic facial pain, other trigeminal orofacial neuropathic pain syndromes,
glossopharyngeal neuralgia, postherpetic neuralgia, migraine, cluster headache, short-lasting unilateral neuralgiform headache attacks with conjunctival injection and tearing (SUNCT), chronic paroxysmal hemicrania, and dental or periodontal pain.

Death from trigeminal neuralgia

(3) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, trigeminal neuralgia, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s trigeminal neuralgia.

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

8 Basis for determining the factors

On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that trigeminal neuralgia and death from trigeminal neuralgia can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the MRCA.

Note: relevant service is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

9 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, trigeminal neuralgia or death from trigeminal neuralgia is connected with the circumstances of a person’s relevant service:

(1) having multiple sclerosis, Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease or a central nervous system demyelinating disease at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

(2) having a mass lesion which compresses, encases, entraps, stretches, infiltrates or displaces the affected trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: mass lesion is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(3) having vascular compression of the trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, by a tortuous or aberrant loop of arteries or veins, haemangioma, aneurysm, venous sinus thrombosis, or arteriovenous malformation, at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

(4) having a benign fibro-osseous lesion which compresses, entraps or displaces the affected trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: benign fibro-osseous lesion is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(5) having a cerebrovascular accident involving the brainstem within the 30 days before the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;
(6) having a disease from the specified list of inflammatory connective tissue diseases at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: specified list of inflammatory connective tissue diseases is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(7) having invasive bacterial or fungal paranasal sinusitis or viral meningoencephalitis, at the time of the clinical onset of trigeminal neuralgia;

(8) having multiple sclerosis, Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease or a central nervous system demyelinating disease at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

(9) having a mass lesion which compresses, encases, entraps, stretches, infiltrates or displaces the affected trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: mass lesion is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(10) having vascular compression of the trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, by a tortuous or aberrant loop of arteries or veins, haemangioma, aneurysm, venous sinus thrombosis, or arteriovenous malformation, at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

(11) having a benign fibro-osseous lesion which compresses, entraps or displaces the affected trigeminal nerve close to its point of entry into the brainstem, at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: benign fibro-osseous lesion is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(12) having a cerebrovascular accident involving the brainstem within the 30 days before the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

(13) having a disease from the specified list of inflammatory connective tissue diseases at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

Note: specified list of inflammatory connective tissue diseases is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(14) having invasive bacterial or fungal paranasal sinusitis or viral meningoencephalitis, at the time of the clinical worsening of trigeminal neuralgia;

(15) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for trigeminal neuralgia.
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(8) to 9(15) apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, trigeminal neuralgia where the person’s trigeminal neuralgia 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(3) 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:

*benign fibro-osseous lesion* means a non-malignant disease of the bone or connective tissue, such as Paget's disease of bone, osteogenesis imperfecta, fibrous dysplasia or cranial osteodysplasia.

*mass lesion* means an endogenous pathological structure or pathological entity or extraneous material occupying a delineated area, including a benign or malignant neoplasm, haematoma, abscess, fungal granuloma, amyloidoma, neurocysticercoma, epidermoid cyst or arachnoid cyst.

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

*relevant service* means:

(a) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;

(b) defence service (other than hazardous service and British nuclear test defence service) under the VEA; or

(c) peacetime service under the MRCA.

*specified list of inflammatory connective tissue diseases* means:

(a) mixed connective tissue disease;

(b) Sjogren's syndrome;

(c) systemic lupus erythematosus; or

(d) systemic sclerosis (scleroderma).

*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.

*trigeminal neuralgia* - see subsection 7(2).

*VEA* means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*. 