



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles
concerning
BENIGN NEOPLASM OF THE EYE AND
ADNEXA
(Reasonable Hypothesis)
(No. 41 of 2016)

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

Dated 22 April 2016

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 'Nicholas Saunders'.

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson

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1 Name

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 41 of 2016).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 23 May 2016.

3 Authority

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

4 Revocation

The Statement of Principles concerning benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa No. 33 of 2008, as amended, made under subsections 196B(2) and (8) of the VEA is revoked.

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 benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa and death from benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa.

*Meaning of **benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa***

- (2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa means:
- (a) a non-malignant neoplastic proliferation of the cells of the eye classified according to site as conjunctiva, cornea, retina, choroid, ciliary body, lacrimal gland, lacrimal duct and orbit; and
 - (b) excludes benign neoplasms of eyelids, optic nerve, meninges and orbital bone; lipoma, haemangioma, lymphangioma, melanocytic naevi, neurofibromatosis, retinal vasoproliferative tumour and ocular surface squamous dysplasia.

- (3) While benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa attracts ICD-10-AM code D31, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa 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), Ninth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2015, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, ISBN 978-1-76007-020-5.

*Death from **benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa***

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

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 benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa and death from benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa 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: **relevant service** is 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 benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa or death from benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) for keratoacanthoma of the conjunctiva only, having sunlight exposure to the eye for a cumulative period of at least 2 250 hours while in a tropical area, or having equivalent sunlight exposure in other latitude zones, before the clinical onset of benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa;

Note: **equivalent sunlight exposure in other latitude zones** and **tropical area** are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (2) for papilloma of the conjunctiva only, acquiring persistent infection of the epithelium of the conjunctiva with a strain from the specified list of human papilloma virus (HPV) strains before the clinical onset of benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa;

Note: **specified list of human papilloma virus (HPV) strains** is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (3) for schwannoma of the eye and adnexa only, having received a cumulative equivalent dose of at least 0.1 sievert of ionising radiation to the eye or orbit at least five years before the clinical onset of benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa;

Note: *cumulative equivalent dose* and *schwannoma* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (4) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa.

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 factor set out in subsection 9(4) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa where the person's benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa 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:

benign neoplasm of the eye and adnexa—see subsection 7(2).

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.

equivalent sunlight exposure in other latitude zones means the cumulative hours of sunlight exposure equivalent to that specified for a tropical area, calculated by multiplying the hours of exposure in each latitude zone by the latitude weighting factor for the zone as per the latitude weighting factor schedule and adding together the result for each zone:

Latitude weighting factor schedule

Latitude zone	Latitude weighting factor
a latitude between 23° 27' South and 23° 27' North	1.0
a latitude from > 23° 27' to 35°	0.75
a latitude from > 35° to 45°	0.5
a latitude from > 45° to 65°	0.25.

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.

schwannoma means a benign neoplasm originating from Schwann cells of the myelin sheath of neurons of peripheral, cranial or autonomic nerves, comprising two types, neurilemmomas and neurofibromas.

specified list of human papilloma virus (HPV) strains means HPV type 6, 11, 16, 18, 33 or 45.

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.

tropical area means any area between the Tropic of Capricorn (23° 27' South) and the Tropic of Cancer (23° 27' North).

VEA means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.