

# Statement of Principles

concerning

## **INGROWN TOENAIL**

ICD CODE: 703.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **ingrown toenail and death from ingrown toenail** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority hereby determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **ingrown toenail or death from ingrown toenail** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) poor foot care within the two days prior to the clinical onset of ingrown toenail; or
  - (b) poor foot hygiene within the two days prior to the clinical onset of ingrown toenail; or
  - (c) wearing ill-fitting footwear within the two days prior to the clinical onset of ingrown toenail; or
  - (d) deformity of the toe or toenail within the two days prior to the clinical onset of ingrown toenail; or

- (e) poor foot care within the two days prior to the clinical worsening of ingrown toenail; or
  - (f) poor foot hygiene within the two days prior to the clinical worsening of ingrown toenail; or
  - (g) wearing ill-fitting footwear within the two days prior to the clinical worsening of ingrown toenail; or
  - (h) deformity of the toe or toenail within the two days prior to the clinical worsening of ingrown toenail; or
  - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for ingrown toenail.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(j)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(e) to 1(j)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **ingrown toenail** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **ingrown toenail** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“deformity of the toe”** means an abnormality that causes pressure against the side of the toe, either by pushing the toe against footwear or against another toe;

**“deformity of the toenail”** means an abnormality resulting from injury to the nail or nail bed, from chronic infection (for example, tinea), or from a congenital malformation;

**“ill-fitting footwear”** means footwear that is not sufficiently wide and pliable to avoid lateral compression of the toe;

**“poor foot care”** means a failure to trim the nails adequately or the practice of trimming the toenails towards the base of the nail rather than straight across the top;

**“poor foot hygiene”** means a failure to wash either feet or socks regularly or a failure to keep the skin dry.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1994

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN