Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

**SOP Bulletin No. 183**

12 May 2015

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS AND DECLARATIONS ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 1 JUNE, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New SOPs</th>
<th>Nil</th>
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<td>Revocations &amp; Replacements</td>
<td>Gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer</td>
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<td>Hepatitis A</td>
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<td>Cerebrovascular accident</td>
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<td>Hereditary spherocytosis</td>
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<td>Malignant neoplasm of the bile duct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amendments</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<td>Revocations</td>
<td>Alkaptonuria</td>
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<td>Congenital cataract</td>
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<td>Spina bifida</td>
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**NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**
### Gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer

- The definition has been modified, to now exclude ulcers due to diseases of the gastric or duodenal mucosa (e.g. Crohn’s disease).
- There are a range of new RH and BOP, onset and worsening factors for: specified drugs; specified infections; ionising radiation x 3 (therapeutic, cumulative dose and $^{90}$Yttrium microsphere treatment); and gastric surgery.
- There are further RH only (onset and worsening) factors for: stressors 1A and 1B; PTSD; specified mental health disorders; and, cirrhosis.
- There are changes to factors concerning: critical illness or injury; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; immunosuppressive drugs; and, drugs in specified list 1, with expansion of the coverage or extension of the allowable time period.

### Hepatitis A

- The definition has been amended, but the SOP still covers acute, clinical illness due to Hep. A infection.
- Infection with the hepatitis A virus may occur without any clinical illness. A non-clinical infection, i.e. serological evidence of infection, in the absence of a clinical illness consistent with acute Hep A infection, is not covered by the SOP and is not a disease for VEA or MRCA purposes.
- The maximum time from exposure to onset has been changed in the RH SOP from 60 to 50 days.
- The definition of “being exposed to the hepatitis A virus“ has also been modified.

### Cerebrovascular accident

- The definition has been amended to clarify the SOP coverage. There is now a list of exclusions.
- There are extensive changes to SOP factors and definitions including:
  - New factors:
    - Binge drinking; obesity; increased waist to hip ratios; inflammatory bowel disease;
    - RH only: 1B stressors; phobic anxiety with panic attack; periodontitis; low vegetable/fruit intake; high salt intake.
    - For ischaemia only: upper respiratory tract infection (RH only); a dose of ionising radiation; air pollution.
• For haemorrhage only: a lipid profile as specified; being underweight (RH only).

• Factors previously for ischaemia only or haemorrhage only that now apply to both:
  • Hypertensive emergency/crisis; NSAIDs (RH only); passive smoking; sources of emboli (the old factor has been split into 3, covering cardiac and non-cardiac sources of emboli and specified procedures); moderate to severe traumatic brain injury.

• Changed factors:
  • Hypertension (10/5 year latency added);
  • Infections (more infections and separate HIV factor);
  • Vasculitis/ cerebral vessel disease;
  • Specified drugs (RH only - BOP still aspirin only)/ selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors;
  • Heat stroke (now not restricted to exertional);
  • Ischaemia only:
    • Smoking doses, where smoking has ceased;
    • Precerebral artery occlusion and stenosis;
    • Haematological disorders (now hypercoagulable state);
    • Therapeutic radiation (mediastinum added);
    • Trauma to neck/base of skull (shorter latency);
  • Haemorrhage only:
    • Smoking doses;
    • Specified drugs.
  • BOP specific changes:
    • Active migraine factor now for ischaemia only (previously both ischaemia and haemorrhage).

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<th>Hereditary spherocytosis</th>
<th>Revocation - 67 &amp; 68 of '15</th>
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<td>Replaces 13 and 14 of '07</td>
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• The worsening factor for having an infection or inflammatory disease process has been removed.

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• There are new RH only onset factors for: obesity; smoking; asbestos; and, transplantation.
• There is a new RH and BOP (onset) factor for diabetes.
• There is a new BOP factor for Hepatitis B infection (previously RH only).
• The liver fluke infestation factor is now restricted to two types of liver fluke (previously three).
• The ionising radiation factor is no longer limited to internal radionuclides.
• The RH factor that previously covered ulcerative colitis now also covers Crohn’s disease (i.e. it now covers inflammatory bowel disease).

| Alkaptonuria | Congenital cataract | Spina bifida |

• These three SOPs have been revoked and not replaced.
• The RMA has formed the view that these SOPs do not have any factors which can be related to service.
• Any claims for these conditions therefore need to be rejected.

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