



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

SOP Bulletin No. 185

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPs ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 21 SEPTEMBER, 2015

New SOPs	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Fracture Achilles tendinopathy and bursitis Hallux valgus Lipoma Malignant melanoma of the skin Mesothelioma Ingrowing nail Meniere's disease External burn Hepatitis E
Amendments	Lipoma

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

New SOP template

There has been a further change to the new SOP template, with the title page now indicating whether the SOP is a reasonable hypothesis or balance of probabilities instrument.

Fracture

Revocation - 94 & 95 of '15

Replaces 53 and 54 of '06

- There is a new factor (RH and BOP), for lower limb stress fracture only, for having a significant lower limb biomechanical abnormality.
- There are new factors (RH and BOP) concerning: smoking; alcohol; diabetes; HIV; drugs; rheumatoid arthritis and Hepatitis C infection. For onset of fracture these apply to "minimal trauma fracture" only. For worsening, they apply generally.
- There is a new factor (RH and BOP), for fracture generally, for having osteogenesis imperfecta.

Achilles tendinopathy and bursitis

Revocation - 96 & 97 of '15

Replaces 37 and 38 of '07

- The definition now specifically includes degenerative tear (partial or complete) of the Achilles.
- There are two new physical activity factors (RH and BOP), for running and for a recent increase in the level of weight bearing activity.
- There are new factors (RH and BOP) for obesity, diabetes and specified drugs.

Hallux valgus

Revocation - 98 & 99 of '15

Replaces 91 and 92 of '07

- There is a new factor (RH and BOP) for having a tumour involving the second metatarsal bone.

Lipoma

**Revocation - 100 & 101 of '15
And Amendment 114 & 115 of '15**
Replaces 97 and 98 of '07

- This SOP previously had only an inability to obtain appropriate clinical management factor.
- There is a new onset only factor (RH and BOP), for benign symmetrical lipomatosis only, concerning alcohol use disorder.
- There is a new onset only RH only factor, for hepatic lipoma only, concerning hepatic steatosis or steatohepatitis.
- The amendments correct an error in the definition by deleting "in superficial subcutaneous tissues". Lipomas anywhere in the body are covered by this SOP.

Malignant melanoma of the skin

Revocation - 102 & 103 of '15
Replaces 79 and 80 of '07

- The definition has been revised, with some additional specific exclusions for non-skin melanomas.
- The complex UV exposure ratio factor has been removed and replaced with the simpler cumulative hours of sunlight factor (this was the last SOP to still have the UV ratio factor).
- There are new onset only factors for: using a UV tanning device; having non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphoid leukaemia/small cell lymphoma; having Parkinson's disease (all RH and BOP); and having a burns scar at the site (RH only).
- The immunosuppressive drugs for transplant or malignancy factor has been split in two, with a factor for transplant and one for immunosuppressive drugs.

Mesothelioma

Revocation - 104 & 105 of '15
Replaces 83 and 84 of '07

- There is a new RH only onset factor for inhaling talc that contains asbestiform fibres.
- The previous Thorotrast (radioactive contrast agent) factor has been replaced with a general ionising radiation factor.
- There is a new onset only factor (RH and BOP) for cumulative hours of firefighting (as defined).

Ingrowing nail**Revocation - 106 & 107 of '15**

Replaces 93 and 94 of '07

- There is a new factor for fungal infection of the affected nail.
- There are new factors, for ingrowing toenails only (RH and BOP), for having hyperhidrosis and wet feet.

Meniere's disease**Revocation - 108 & 109 of '15**

Replaces 59 and 60 of '06

- The head injury factor has been updated and is now limited to moderate to severe traumatic brain injury.
- There is a new RH only onset factor concerning specified autoimmune diseases.

External burn**Revocation - 110 & 111 of '15**

Replaces 41 and 42 of '06

- The definition has been modified and now specifically included burns to the eye and sunburn. Exclusions have been added for electrical and friction burns. The corresponding factors for electric shock/lightning and friction have been removed. Those injuries are covered by other SOPs.
- There is a new RH and BOP onset factor for burns due to laser light.

Hepatitis E**Revocation - 112 & 113 of '15**

Replaces 31 and 32 of '07

- The definition for "being exposed to the hepatitis E virus" has been modified.
- A previous RH and BOP worsening factor concerning pregnancy has been removed.

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