



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Compensation & Income Support Policy Branch**

# SOP Bulletin No. 199

13 November 2017

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 4 DECEMBER, 2017**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Ulnar neuropathy at the elbow</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Substance use disorder Osteoarthritis Immune thrombocytopaenia</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

<b>Ulnar neuropathy at the elbow</b>	<b>New – 65 &amp; 66 of 2017</b>
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- Ulnar neuropathy is the second most common focal neuropathy after carpal tunnel syndrome.
- This new SOP has factors for entrapment or compression of the nerve at the elbow, as well as for systemic causes that result in localized neuropathy at the elbow.
- The SOP does not cover ulnar neuropathy at the wrist.

**Substance use disorder****Revocation – 59 & 60 of 2017**

Replaces 3 and 4 of 2009

- A new factor has been added for experiencing a category 2 stressor (RH and BOP).
- There is also a new factor for persistent pain (RH SOP only).

**Osteoarthritis****Revocation – 61 & 62 of 2017**

Replaces 13 and 14 of 2010

- The definition has been amended to note that labral tear of the hip or shoulder is an associated feature for OA at those sites.
- There are new factors for: acute articular cartilage tear; acute meniscal tear; joint instability or dislocation; and femoroacetabular impingement, for OA at relevant sites.
- For the upper limb:
  - The previous factor that included “forceful activities” has been changed to now specify tasks involving repeated or sustained pinch grip or hand/power grip (as defined).
  - For the same factor the previous element requiring a “continuous period of at least 10 years” has been changed to a “cumulative period of at least ten years within a continuous period of 15 years”.
  - The (hand held) vibrating, percussive, industrial tool factor has been changed to one for a vibrating percussive tool or object. Note that a (vibrating) rotary tool (e.g. a drill) is not covered by this factor unless it also has a percussive action (e.g. a hammer drill). A “vibrating percussive tool or object” would also now include, e.g., a machine gun.
- For the lower limb:
  - The lifting loads factor has been changed with reductions in weight from 25 kg (RH) and 35 kg (BOP) to 20 kg for both RH and BOP. The cumulative total weight has also been reduced from 120,000 kg to 100,000 kg for RH and from 168,000 kg to 150,000 kg for BOP.
  - In the carrying loads factor the weights have similarly been reduced to 20 kg for both RH and BOP.
  - The factor for stairs or rungs of a ladder has been changed:
    - It was previously for the hip or knee only and now covers any lower limb jt.
    - The previous requirement for 300 stairs/rungs per day has been lowered to 150.
    - The previous requirement of 10 years (continuous) in the BOP SOP is now 5 yrs.

- The factor that previous concerned a waist to hip circumference ratio has been changed to one for a waist circumference measurement.
- The factor for kneeling or squatting factor that previously applied to the knee only now also applies for the hip.

**Immune thrombocytopenia****Revocation – 63 & 64 of 2017**

Replaces 72 and 73 of 2008

- The name of the SOP has been changed – from immune thrombocytopenic purpura.
- The definition has been amended and now requires a platelet count of 100,000/microliter, down from 150,000/microliter.
- Fungal infections have been added to the previous factor for bacterial infection.
- The vaccines factor has been expanded and there is a new factor for idiosyncratic reaction to a drug or vaccine.
- There are new factors for: a specified food or beverage; idiosyncratic reactions to foods or beverages; solid organ cancer; and alemtuzmab (drug).
- The transplant factor has been extended to now cover solid organ transplant (previously stem cell only).

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