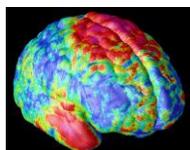
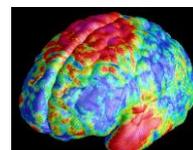


DECISION SUPPORT UNIT

Intranet site: <http://sharepoint/servingourcustomers/compensation/dsu>



SOP Bulletin No. 134



4 May 2009

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 6 MAY, 2009

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New SOPs | Fibrosing interstitial lung disease (replaces idiopathic fibrosing alveolitis) |
| Revocations & Replacements | Macular degeneration Schizophrenia Bronchiectasis Cerebral meningioma Malignant neoplasm of the cerebral meninges Frostbite Immersion foot Bipolar disorder Trigeminal neuropathy Electrical injury Cushing's syndrome |
| Amendments | Epileptic seizure |

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

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|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fibrosing interstitial lung disease | New - 35 & 36 of '09 Replaces 15 and 16 of '98 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

- With the creation of this SOP, the RMA non-SOP investigation into fibrosing alveolitis has now concluded. Claims covered by that investigation can now be processed.
- The SOP covers many, but not all diseases that cause inflammation and fibrosis (scarring) in the lung:

- Idiopathic fibrosing alveolitis / pulmonary fibrosis is covered as are a range of inhalational dust diseases (from e.g. silica, coal and beryllium, but not asbestos - asbestosis remains as a separate SOP).
- Radiation fibrosis is covered as is alveolitis/fibrosis from other inhaled and non-inhaled toxins and poisons (e.g. various drugs), but extrinsic allergic alveolitis (hypersensitivity pneumonitis due to inhaled antigens) is excluded and remains covered by a separate SOP.
- Lung disease as part of a multisystem (systemic) disease like sarcoidosis or SLE is excluded (most cases are covered by separate SOPs for the underlying disease).
- There are a number of other exclusions, for interstitial lung diseases that don't lead to fibrosis, e.g. desquamative interstitial pneumonia.
- Deciding whether this SOP applies will obviously be difficult in some cases and medical officer advice should be sought if in doubt.

Macular degeneration

Revocation - 13 & 14 of '09

Replaces 25 and 26 of '03

- The SOP still covers both early and late macular degeneration. The previous requirement for visual impairment is no longer stated in the definition.
- There are new factors for consuming alcohol (RH & BOP), being obese (RH only) and having severe chronic renal failure (RH onset only).
- There are new worsening factors for smoking.
- The cataract surgery factor now applies only to late onset macular degeneration.

Schizophrenia

Revocation - 15 & 16 of '09

Replaces 132 and 133 of '96

- The understanding of the effect of environmental factors on this condition has changed significantly since the previous SOPs were gazetted. As a result there are many new causal and worsening factors in the new SOPs. The previous SOPs had only worsening factors.
- The new onset factors are:
 - RH and BOP
 - Cannabis dependence or abuse (early onset for BOP).
 - Cannabis use at least twice a week for six months/2 years, before age 18.
 - Experiencing severe childhood abuse.
 - Experiencing the death of a related child.
 - Experiencing the early death of a parent.
 - RH only
 - Having viral meningitis or encephalitis before age 16.

- Infection with *Toxoplasma gondii*.
- Moderate to severe cerebral trauma (as defined) 1 to 5 years before onset.
- Therapeutic radiation to the brain.
- Atomic radiation to the brain.
- There are new worsening factors for:
RH and BOP
 - Severe childhood abuse.
 - Death of a related child.
 - Category 1A and 1B stressors (replaces psychosocial stressors).
 - Drug or alcohol dependence or abuse.
 - Therapeutic and illicit drug use (replaces cannabis and cocaine).
 - Clinically significant psychiatric conditions.

Bronchiectasis

Revocation - 17 & 18 of '09

Replaces 59 and 60 of '01

- The previous pneumonia factor has been simplified.
- There is now an aspiration pneumonia factor, replacing the previous factor for aspiration of gastric contents resulting in respiratory distress.
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - having gastro-oesophageal reflux disease with stricture or erosive oesophagitis, and
 - exposure to arsenic (as specified).

Cerebral meningioma

Revocation - 19 & 20 of '09

Replaces 207 and 208 of '95

- This SOP has been updated to comply with the requirements of the Legislative Instruments Act.
- The SOP now covers benign and intermediate grade meningiomas (previously benign meningiomas only).
- A new causal factor has been added for atomic radiation.

Malignant neoplasm of the cerebral meninges

Revocation - 21 & 22 of '09

Replaces 205 and 206 of '95

- This SOP has been updated to comply with the requirements of the Legislative Instruments Act.
- The definition now excludes sarcoma, carcinoid and lymphoma (as is usual in malignant neoplasm SOPs).
- A new causal factor has been added for atomic radiation.

- The factor concerning therapeutic radiation was previously restricted to sarcoma only. That restriction has been removed. Sarcoma of the cerebral meninges is now excluded from this SOP, but covered by the soft tissue sarcoma SOP (which also has a therapeutic radiation factor).

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| Frostbite | Revocation - 23 & 24 of '09 Replaces 166 and 167 of '95 |
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- This SOP has been updated to comply with the requirements of the Legislative Instruments Act.
- There are wording and formatting changes, but no significant changes to the coverage of the SOP or the single causal factor.

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Immersion foot | Revocation - 25 & 26 of '09 Replaces 168 and 169 of '95 |
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- This SOP has been updated to comply with the requirements of the Legislative Instruments Act.
- There are wording and formatting changes, but no significant changes to the coverage of the SOP or the single causal factor.

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| Bipolar disorder | Revocation - 27 & 28 of '09 Replaces 25 and 26 of '08 |
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- There have been a series of minor corrections in the SOP, but no material changes.

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| Trigeminal neuropathy | Revocation - 29 & 30 of '09 Replaces 81 and 82 of '95 |
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- This SOP covers loss of function of the trigeminal nerve, which supplies parts of the face. Note that there is a separate SOP for trigeminal neuralgia, which is a specific facial pain syndrome. The SOP for trigeminal neuralgia is also being updated and will likely be finalised after the next RMA meeting.
- The SOP definition has been amended and expanded to include motor and autonomic function (previously sensory function only).
- There have been considerable changes to the SOP factors with:
 - Expansion of a number of the old factors, now covering a wider range of drugs, infections, diseases and types of trauma.
 - A number of new onset factors, for toxins, chemicals and radiation.
 - The addition of worsening factors, mirroring the onset factors (previously no worsening factors).

Electrical injury**Revocation - 31 & 32 of '09**Replaces 149 and 150 of '95
& 151 and 152 of '95
& 197 and 198 of '95

- This SOP combines the previous SOPs for (a) effects of lightning and (b) electric shock (non-fatal effects and electrocution).
- External burns were previously excluded from the lightning SOP. External burns due to electric current (including from lightning) are now covered by both this SOP and the external burn SOP.

Cushing's syndrome**Revocation - 33 & 34 of '09**

Replaces 249 and 250 of '95

- There is a much more detailed and complex factor for treatment with glucocorticoids (prednisone etc) than previously.
- There is a new factor for treatment with specific agents for MN of the breast or HIV infection.

Epileptic seizure**Amendment - 37 & 38 of '09**

Amends 47 and 48 of '05

- The amendment adds a factor for exposure to RDX - a commonly used explosive in military and other settings.

Contact Officers for this bulletin:

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|-----------------|-------|
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Remember! If you are having any problems with SOPs, or SOPs in CCPS, talk to us!