



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

## **Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group**

# **SOP Bulletin No. 191**

11 July 2016

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPs ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 25 July, 2016**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Barrett's oesophagus</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Sarcoidosis Otosclerosis Spasmodic torticollis Suicide and attempted suicide</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### **NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**

<b>Barrett's oesophagus</b>	<b>New - 67 &amp; 68 of '16</b>
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- This is a new SOP, for a condition in which the normal lining of the lower oesophagus is replaced by a different, abnormal tissue. It typically develops as a consequence of chronic gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and it predisposes to the development of oesophageal cancer.
- The SOP has factors for reflux, hiatus hernia, obesity and a diet low in fruit and vegetables.

**Sarcoidosis****Revocation - 59 & 60 of '16**  
Replaces 115 and 116 of '07

- There are new RH only onset factors for obesity and for being treated with a tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$  inhibitor.
- There is a new BOP onset factors for being treated with interferon- $\alpha$ . The corresponding factor in the RH SOP has been broadened to now cover being treated with any interferon.

**Otosclerosis****Revocation - 61 & 62 of '16**  
Replaces 119 and 120 of '07

- There are no material changes.

**Spasmodic torticollis****Revocation - 63 & 64 of '16**  
Replaces 21 and 22 of '08

- There are no material changes.

**Suicide and attempted suicide****Revocation - 65 & 66 of '16**  
Replaces 11 and 12 of '10

- There are new onset factors as follows:
  - RH only:
    - (when  $\leq$  18 yrs at the time) death of a parent
    - (when  $\leq$  18 yrs at the time) attempted suicide of a parent
    - death of a sibling by suicide
    - taking mefloquine or choloquine within 6 months before
  - BOP:
    - (when  $\leq$  18 yrs at the time) death of a parent by suicide
    - taking mefloquine within 6 months before
  - RH and BOP:
    - (when  $\leq$  18 yrs) suicide of a peer
    - specified psychotropic recreational drugs
    - moderate to severe traumatic brain injury
    - bariatric surgery.
- A number of these new factors concern events happening to someone else, where a connection to the service of the person who is the subject of the claim may be

difficult to imagine. If the sound medical-scientific evidence is supportive, the RMA's approach is to include such factors, unless they can be certain that the event / exposure could not be related to relevant service.

**Contact for this bulletin:**

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