



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

**Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group**

**SOP Bulletin No. 167**

02 September 2013

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 04 SEPTEMBER, 2013**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Malignant neoplasm of the anus and anal canal</b> <b>Fibrosing interstitial lung disease</b> <b>Asbestosis</b> <b>Sudden unexplained death</b> <b>Guillian-Barre syndrome</b> <b>Malignant neoplasm of the larynx</b> <b>Hypertension</b> <b>Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease</b> <b>Motor neurone disease</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Lumbar spondylosis</b>

**NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**

<b>Malignant neoplasm of the anus and anal canal</b>	<b>Revocation – 51 &amp; 52 of '13</b> Replaces 34 and 35 of '02
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- The SOP has been renamed and the coverage widened (previously called malignant neoplasm of the anal canal and previously excluded adenocarcinoma of the anal canal).
- There is a new RH only onset factor for Crohn's disease.

<b>Fibrosing interstitial lung disease</b>	<b>Revocation – 53 &amp; 54 of '13</b> Replaces 35 and 36 of '09 As amended by 59 & 60 of '10, 79 & 80 of '11 and 66 & 67 of '12
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- The main change to this SOP has been to remove the exclusion of asbestosis from the definition and to add new factors for asbestos exposure. There is still a separate SOP for asbestosis, which should be used when that diagnosis can be established. Asbestos-related fibrosing lung disease is now effectively covered by both SOPs (FILD and asbestosis), with the same asbestos exposure factors in each.

<b>Asbestosis</b>	<b>Revocation – 55 &amp; 56 of '13</b> Replaces 23 and 24 of '05
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- There have been minor changes to the format of the asbestos exposure factors.
- Note that for SOP factors of this type with multiple components, each component of the factor must be related to service for the factor to be met.

### **Sudden unexplained death**

**Revocation – 57 & 58 of '13**  
Replaces 43 and 44 of '05

- There has been a name change for this SOP, from sudden unexpected death.
- There is one new RH only factor, for using a methamphetamine.

### **Guillain-Barre syndrome**

**Revocation – 59 & 60 of '13**  
Replaces 53 and 54 of '05

- There are new RH only onset factors for Herpes zoster infection, transplantation, surgery/anaesthesia, and malignancy.
- For the vaccination factor, polio and tetanus have been removed from the specified vaccine list in the BOP SOP.

### **Malignant neoplasm of the larynx**

**Revocation – 61 & 62 of '13**  
Replaces 1 and 2 of '06

- There are new RH and BOP onset factors for: inhaling asbestos fibres in an open environment; inhaling mist from a strong inorganic acid; transplantation (stem cell or solid organ); and HIV infection.
- There are new RH only onset factors for: human papilloma virus infection; drinking maté; and low intake of fruits and vegetables.

### **Hypertension**

**Revocation – 63 & 64 of '13**  
Replaces 35 and 36 of '03  
As amended by 3 & 4 of '04 and 11 & 12 of '08

- There are changes to the definition, allowing blood pressure measurements from ambulatory monitoring and home readings to be considered. However, the diagnosis still needs to be made by a medical practitioner.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for extrinsic compression of a kidney and for having an arteriovenous fistula or malformation involving the blood supply to the kidney.
- There is a new RH only factor (onset and worsening) for exposure to arsenic.
- There are changes to several existing factors:
  - Obesity factors - now covers overweight as well.
  - Salt factors - now includes all salt, not just supplements.
  - Renal failure factors – now also covers chronic renal disease or injury.
  - Renal transplant factors – now also covers other solid organ transplant.
  - Endocrine disorders factors – now covers more thyroid diseases.
  - Drugs factors – now a specified list of drugs, plus separate new factors for anti-neoplastic drugs and glucocorticoid therapy.

### **Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease**

**Revocation – 65 & 66 of '13**  
Replaces 11 and 12 of '05

- The previous obesity factors now concern being overweight.
  - The doses in the smoking factors have been amended.
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- The two previous surgery factors have been amalgamated.
- Previously separate factors for scleroderma, Zollinger-Ellison syndrome and Sjögren's syndrome have been combined into a specified diseases factor, with a now expanded list of diseases.
- There are new factors for being pregnant (RH & BOP, onset & worsening).
- There are new worsening factors for specified psychiatric diseases and specified drugs.
- A previous RH only factor for eradication of Helicobacter pylori has been removed.

<b>Motor neurone disease</b>	<b>Revocation – 67 &amp; 68 of '13</b> Replaces 7 and 8 of '06 As amended by 53 of '09
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- New factors have been added to the:
  - RH SOP, for: moderate to severe traumatic brain injury; and for cumulative blows to the head.
  - BOP SOP, for smoking (previously RH only).

<b>Lumbar spondylosis</b>	<b>Amendment – 69 &amp; 70 of '13</b> Amends 37 and 38 of '05 As amended by 78 & 79 of '08 and 36 & 37 of '10
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- Following a direction from the SMRC (the Specialist Medical Review Council, the body that reviews RMA decisions, on appeal), the RMA has added new onset and worsening factors to the RH and BOP SOPs for prolonged extreme forward flexion of the lumbar spine (1500 hours in a posture of  $\geq 90^\circ$  of trunk flexion).

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