

Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

SOP Bulletin No. 174

05 May 2014

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 7 MAY, 2014

New SOPs	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Hodgkin's lymphoma Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Malignant neoplasm of the thyroid Acute stress disorder Mitral valve prolapse Pleural plaque Chronic myeloid leukaemia Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter Otitis media
Amendments	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Hodgkin's lymphoma	Revocation – 35 & 36 of '14 Replaces 28 and 29 of '04
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- There is a new RH and BOP factor for being obese.
- There are new RH only factors for organophosphate insecticide exposure (e.g. chlorpyrifos, diazinon), and treatment with certain immunosuppressive drugs.
- Previously RH only factors for smoking and undergoing a transplant have been added to the BOP SOP.
- The previous RH only factor for rheumatoid arthritis has been expanded to cover a list of autoimmune diseases and has been added to the BOP SOP (but with a shorter list in that SOP).

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Revocation – 37 & 38 of '14 Replaces 30 and 31 of '04
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- The previous SOP for chronic bronchitis and emphysema has been renamed as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The new SOP covers chronic bronchitis (with or without airway obstruction) and emphysema, as before. It also now clarifies in the definition that chronic airflow limitation (i.e. fixed airway obstruction, as measured by spirometry), in the absence of specific evidence of chronic bronchitis (productive cough) or emphysema (demonstrated enlargement of airspaces) is covered, unless it is due to another respiratory disease. This was the case with the previous SOP (in practice), but the new SOP makes this more explicit.
- So this SOP continues to cover smoking-related lung disease and exclude asthma and some other diseases.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for smoking cannabis and for inhaling specified vapours, gases, dusts or fumes, in closed or open environments (with different doses).

- There is a new RH only factor for long term exposure to heavily polluted air.

Malignant neoplasm of the thyroid	Revocation – 39 & 40 of '14 Replaces 9 and 10 of '06 as amended by 67 and 68 of '11
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- The definition now excludes medullary thyroid cancer, which was covered in the previous SOP (but had no causal factors).
- There is a new RH and BOP factor for stem cell, bone marrow or solid organ transplantation.
- There are new factors for being overweight or obese in the RH SOP and being obese in the BOP SOP.

Acute stress disorder	Revocation – 41 & 42 of '14 Replaces 33 and 34 of '07
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- This SOP has been updated and the definition is now derived from DSM-5 criteria. The principle definition changes are:
 - The previous criterion A1 concerning exposure to traumatic events now has four parts, with the forth part covering traumatic events that may be experienced remotely in time or place (including via electronic means, where that is work-related); and
 - a removal of the requirement for a response to the traumatic event that involves intense fear, helplessness, or horror.
- There is a corresponding new factor (RH and BOP) and definition for being exposed to repeated or extreme aversive details of severe traumatic events.
- There is also a new RH and BOP factor for childhood abuse.

A reminder – delegates should now be requesting that reports from psychiatrists include both DSM-IV and DSM-5 diagnoses, in accordance with the updated Commission guidelines for psychiatric claims (now available in the CCPS research library).

Mitral valve prolapse	Revocation – 43 & 44 of '14 Replaces 11 and 12 of '03
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- The only factor in this SOP (RH and BOP) previously was for inability to obtain appropriate clinical management.
- There is one new RH only worsening factor for flying in high performance aircraft.

Pleural plaque	Revocation – 45 & 46 of '14 Replaces 51 and 52 of '03
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- There are no material changes to this SOP.

Chronic myeloid leukaemia	Revocation – 47 & 48 of '14 Replaces 15 and 16 of '03 as amended by 47 and 48 of '11
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- A new smoking factor has been added to the BOP SOP (previously RH only).

Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter	Revocation – 49 & 50 of '14 Replaces 19 and 20 of '03 and 71 and 72 of '02
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- The previously separate SOPs for atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter have been combined into one SOP.

- There are many new onset factors, including factors for alcohol, obesity, strenuous exercise, local trauma, surgery, a range of diseases and smoking (for RH only).
- Worsening factors corresponding to most of the old and new onset factors have also been added.

Otitis media

Revocation – 51 & 52 of '14
Replaces 01 and 02 of '03

- There are new RH only onset and worsening factors for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease.
- There is a new RH only onset factor for water in the oropharynx from aquatic activities.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Amendment – 57 of '14
Amends 28 of '10

- There has been a change to the benzene factor (RH only), with the inclusion of the now standard “being exposed to benzene” definition.

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