



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

SOP Bulletin No. 177

15 September 2014

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 22 SEPTEMBER, 2014

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| New SOPs | Nil |
| Revocations & Replacements | Peripheral neuropathy Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Vascular dementia Malignant neoplasm of unknown primary Post traumatic stress disorder Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/Small lymphocytic lymphoma |
| Amendments | Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma Diabetes mellitus |

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

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| Peripheral neuropathy | Revocation – 74 & 75 of '14 Replaces 41 and 42 of '05 |
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- The factors are largely the same or similar to before, but there are changes to a number of the associated definitions, particularly with the inclusion of additional drugs, chemicals, agents, infections and diseases in those definitions that contain lists.
- There are new onset factors for bariatric surgery and vitamin B6 hypervitaminosis (RH & BOP), and for stem cell or bone marrow transplant and acute carbon monoxide poisoning (RH only).

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| Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease | Revocation – 76 & 77 of '14 Replaces 34 and 35 of '04 |
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- The factors in this SOP have been reorganised, with some specificity added to the factor time frames and to types of surgical or therapeutic procedures that can be causal.

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| Vascular dementia | Revocation – 78 & 79 of '14 Replaces 21 and 22 of '06 as amended |
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- There is a new disease definition, but the SOP coverage is unchanged.
- There have been substantial changes to the factors.

- The previous factors (onset and worsening) for cerebrovascular disease have been replaced by:
 - (i) a factor for specified diseases of cerebral vessels; and,
 - (ii) new factors for underlying risk factors, i.e.: hypertension; cardiac arrhythmias; carotid arterial disease; ischaemic heart disease; cardiac surgery; diabetes; inability to exercise; depression; and chronic renal failure (all RH & BOP), plus: smoking; obesity; dyslipidaemia; hyperhomocysteinaemia and PTSD (RH only).

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| Malignant neoplasm of unknown primary | Revocation – 80 & 81 of '14 Replaces 44 and 45 of '04 as amended by 69 & 70 of '11 |
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- There are minor changes only to this SOP.
- A cessation clause has been added to the smoking factor.
- A new factor has been added (RH & BOP) for types of human papilloma virus, applying only to squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary site involving the head and neck region.

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| Posttraumatic stress disorder | Revocation – 82 & 83 of '14 Replaces 5 and 6 of '08 as amended by 19 of '14 |
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- The PTSD definition has been updated and is now based on DSM-5. There are some significant changes from the previous DSM-IV based definition. In particular, the previous requirement (criterion A(ii)) that a person's response to a traumatic event involved "intense fear, helplessness, or horror" has been removed.
- The new criterion A contains more detail about how the traumatic event(s) may be experienced.
- The three symptom clusters that were in the DSM-IV definition have been reorganised into four clusters in the DSM-5 definition.
- The RH only factors that were added in January '14 (Instrument 19 of 2014) at the direction of the SMRC, concerning perception of threat in a hostile environment, have been replaced by simpler factors for living or working for at least one month in "a hostile or life threatening environment". That term has been defined. The new factor is for onset and worsening and covers the individual, but not someone else known to the individual (as was the case with the SRMC directed factors).
- There is also a new factor (RH & BOP, onset & worsening) for being exposed to repeated or extreme aversive details of severe traumatic events, including indirect exposure, e.g. via video, where such viewing is a work requirement.

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| Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia / Small lymphocytic lymphoma | Revocation – 84 & 85 of '14 Replaces 9 and 10 of '05 as amended by 28 of '14 |
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- Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) has been taken from the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma SOP and added to what was the chronic lymphoid leukaemia (CLL) SOP. CLL and SLL are variants of the same disease entity. When the B lymphocyte cancer cells of this disease occur mostly in the blood stream and bone marrow it is called CLL. When they occur mostly in the lymph nodes it is called SLL.
- Some factors that had been recently added to the CLL SOP (at the direction of the SMRC) have now been removed from this combined SOP. The only causal factors (RH SOP only) are for benzene exposure and Hepatitis C infection.

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| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | Amendment – 86 & 87 of '14 Amends 28 and 29 of '10 as amended by 57 of '14 |
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- The definition has been amended to exclude small lymphocytic lymphoma from this SOP. It is now part of the CLL/SLL SOP, as above.

- As a consequence, there are also some changes to the factors for Richter’s syndrome (A form of NHL that can develop in someone with CLL).

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| Diabetes mellitus | Amendment – 88 & 89 of '14 Amends 89 and 90 of '11 |
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- PTSD has been added as a casual and worsening factor in the RH SOP only.
- The previous treatment with a drug /class of drug factor has been split in two. There is a factor, with an accompanying list (list 1) that covers drugs that have an enduring effect. The second factor (and list 3) covers drugs that have a temporary effect and hence there is the “cannot be ceased or substituted” requirement in the factor. [Note: drug list 2 is part of the separate “glucocorticoid therapy as specified” factor.]

Contact Officers for this bulletin:
Dr Jon Kelley 48412
Dr Edwin Nicoll 48583

