



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

**Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group**

# SOP Bulletin No. 183

12 May 2015

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS AND DECLARATIONS ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON  
1 JUNE, 2015**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer Hepatitis A Cerebrovascular accident Hereditary spherocytosis Malignant neoplasm of the bile duct</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations</b>	<b>Alkaptonuria Congenital cataract Spina bifida</b>

## **NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**

**Gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer****Revocation - 61 & 62 of '15**

Replaces 57 and 58 of '06

- The definition has been modified, to now exclude ulcers due to diseases of the gastric or duodenal mucosa (e.g. Crohn's disease).
- There are a range of new RH and BOP, onset and worsening factors for: specified drugs; specified infections; ionising radiation x 3 (therapeutic, cumulative dose and <sup>90</sup>Yttrium microsphere treatment); and gastric surgery.
- There are further RH only (onset and worsening) factors for: stressors 1A and 1B; PTSD; specified mental health disorders; and, cirrhosis.
- There are changes to factors concerning: critical illness or injury; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; immunosuppressive drugs; and, drugs in specified list 1, with expansion of the coverage or extension of the allowable time period.

**Hepatitis A****Revocation - 63 & 64 of '15**

Replaces 29 and 30 of '07

- The definition has been amended, but the SOP still covers acute, clinical illness due to Hep. A infection.
- Infection with the hepatitis A virus may occur without any clinical illness. A non-clinical infection, i.e. serological evidence of infection, in the absence of a clinical illness consistent with acute Hep A infection, is not covered by the SOP and is not a disease for VEA or MRCA purposes.
- The maximum time from exposure to onset has been changed in the RH SOP from 60 to 50 days.
- The definition of "being exposed to the hepatitis A virus" has also been modified.

**Cerebrovascular accident****Revocation - 65 & 66 of '15**

Replaces 51 and 52 of '06

- The definition has been amended to clarify the SOP coverage. There is now a list of exclusions.
- There are extensive changes to SOP factors and definitions including:
  - New factors:
    - Binge drinking; obesity; increased waist to hip ratios; inflammatory bowel disease;
    - RH only: 1B stressors; phobic anxiety with panic attack; periodontitis; low vegetable/fruit intake; high salt intake.
    - For ischaemia only: upper respiratory tract infection (RH only); a dose of ionising radiation; air pollution.

- For haemorrhage only: a lipid profile as specified; being underweight (RH only).
- Factors previously for ischaemia only or haemorrhage only that now apply to both:
  - Hypertensive emergency/crisis; NSAIDs (RH only); passive smoking; sources of emboli (the old factor has been split into 3, covering cardiac and non-cardiac sources of emboli and specified procedures); moderate to severe traumatic brain injury.
- Changed factors:
  - Hypertension (10/5 year latency added);
  - Infections (more infections and separate HIV factor);
  - Vasculitis/ cerebral vessel disease;
  - Specified drugs (RH only - BOP still aspirin only)/ selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors;
  - Heat stroke (now not restricted to exertional);
  - Ischaemia only:
    - Smoking doses, where smoking has ceased;
    - Precerebral artery occlusion and stenosis;
    - Haematological disorders (now hypercoagulable state);
    - Therapeutic radiation (mediastinum added);
    - Trauma to neck/base of skull (shorter latency);
  - Haemorrhage only:
    - Smoking doses;
    - Specified drugs.
- BOP specific changes:
  - Active migraine factor now for ischaemia only (previously both ischaemia and haemorrhage).

<b>Hereditary spherocytosis</b>	<b>Revocation - 67 &amp; 68 of '15</b> Replaces 13 and 14 of '07
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- The worsening factor for having an infection or inflammatory disease process has been removed.

<b>Malignant neoplasm of the bile duct</b>	<b>Revocation - 69 &amp; 70 of '15</b> Replaces 21 and 22 of '07
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- There are new RH only onset factors for: obesity; smoking; asbestos; and, transplantation.
- There is a new RH and BOP (onset) factor for diabetes.
- There is a new BOP factor for Hepatitis B infection (previously RH only).

- The liver fluke infestation factor is now restricted to two types of liver fluke (previously three).
- The ionising radiation factor is no longer limited to internal radionuclides.
- The RH factor that previously covered ulcerative colitis now also covers Crohn's disease (i.e. it now covers inflammatory bowel disease).

**Alkaptonuria**  
**Congenital cataract**  
**Spina bifida**

- These three SOPs have been revoked and not replaced.
- The RMA has formed the view that these SOPs do not have any factors which can be related to service.
- Any claims for these conditions therefore need to be rejected.

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