



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

SOP Bulletin No. 194

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 23 JANUARY, 2017

New SOPs	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Cirrhosis of the liver Haemorrhoids Relapsing polychondritis Hookworm disease Ascariasis Hepatitis D Hepatitis B
Amendments	Otitic barotrauma Sinus barotrauma Malignant neoplasm of the prostate Malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Cirrhosis of the liver

Revocation - 1 & 2 of '17
Replaces 107 and 108 of '07

- There is a minor change to the definition to reflect that cirrhosis is no longer regarded as always irreversible.
- There are new factors for: hepatitis E; granulomatous liver disease; and dideoxynucleoside-analogue drugs - all RH and BOP, for both onset and worsening.

Haemorrhoids

Revocation - 3 & 4 of '17
Replaces 41 and 42 of '08

- There are new factors for:
 - Chewing Khat - RH and BOP, onset and worsening;
 - A pelvic space occupying lesion - RH only, onset and worsening;
 - Irritable bowel syndrome - RH only, onset and worsening;
 - Inability to consume fibre in food - RH only for onset, both RH and BOP for worsening;
 - Anticoagulant and antiplatelet drugs - RH only, for worsening only;
 - NSAIDs - RH and BOP, for worsening only.

Relapsing polychondritis

Revocation - 5 & 6 of '17
Replaces 45 and 46 of '08

- The definition has been redrafted and now highlights that this is an autoimmune disease.
- There is one new RH only onset factor, for having treatment with a tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitor.

Hookworm disease

Revocation - 7 & 8 of '17
Replaces 64 and 65 of '08

- Infection with two new *Ancylostoma* species has been added to the SOP.
- "Ingesting" has been added as a pathway for exposure.

- The previous geographically based factors (being in an endemic area) have been changed to factors for being in conditions/locations that promote survival of and exposure to the organisms.

Ascariasis

Revocation - 9 & 10 of '17
Replaces 62 and 63 of '08

- Infection with an additional species, *Ascaris suum*, has been added to the SOP.
- The previous factor for ingesting contaminated food or drink has been changed to a "being exposed" factor that now covers additional circumstances of exposure.
- The other previous factor for being in an endemic area (defined geographically) has been changed to two factors, for being in conditions/locations that promote survival of and exposure to the organisms.

Hepatitis D

Revocation - 11 & 12 of '17
Replaces 56 and 57 of '08

- The definition has been recast. Laboratory confirmation of infection is still required but specific results on serology or other testing are no longer stipulated.
- There are no other material changes.

Hepatitis B

Revocation - 13 & 14 of '17
Replaces 52 and 53 of '08

- The definition has been recast. Laboratory confirmation of infection is still required but specific results on serology or other testing are no longer stipulated.
- Previously, for exposure to the virus, there were separate factors for acute and chronic infection, with different latency requirements. There is now a single factor with a 30 day minimum latency (down from 45 days).
- The previous worsening factor for being in an immunosuppressed state has been split into separate factors for immunosuppressive drugs, HIV and organ transplant.
- The alcohol worsening factor has been split into male and female factors with lower doses in both than in the previous factor.
- There are new worsening factors for having a resection of a hepatocellular carcinoma, being within 6 months postpartum, having severe hepatic iron overload,

having chronic schistosomiasis infection (all both RH and BOP, for chronic infection only) and being obese (RH only, for chronic infection only).

Otitic barotrauma	Amendment - 15 & 16 of '17 Amends 35 and 36 of '12
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Sinus barotrauma	Amendment - 17 & 18 of '17 Amends 49 and 50 of '10
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- In both SOPs there are amendments to the definition that applies to the factor for a change in barometric pressure. The amendments cover some additional situations, including skydiving and being in a submarine.

Malignant neoplasm of the prostate	Amendment - 19 & 20 of '17 Amends 53 and 54 of '14
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- The amendments add a worsening factor for smoking to the BOP SOP (as directed by the SMRC) and lower the smoking dose in the RH SOP worsening factor, from 20 to 10 pack years.
- The date of effect for the amendment to the BOP SOP is 21 September 2016 (the date of the SMRC decision).

Malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus	Amendment - 21 of '17 Amends 120 of '15
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- The amendment, to the RH SOP, changes the latency period in the ionising radiation factor from 10 to 5 years (consistent with other solid cancer SOPs).

Contact for this bulletin:

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