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Rehabilitation & Entitlements Policy Group

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPs ARE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 20 JULY, 2015

New SOPs	Arachnoid cyst
Revocations & Replacements	Acute myeloid leukaemia Myelodysplastic disorder Myasthenia gravis Trigeminal neuralgia Trigeminal neuropathy Tuberculosis Depressive disorder Cardiomyopathy Chickenpox Malignant neoplasm of the gallbladder
Amendments	Non Hodgkin's lymphoma

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

New SOP template

With this batch of SOPs the RMA has introduced a new SOP template. It includes: a new title page; a table of contents; notes within the factors to indicate when terms or phrases within factors have been defined; and, a dictionary, containing the definitions.

Arachnoid cyst

New - 91 & 92 of '15

- The determination of these SOPs concludes a non-SOP investigation into arachnoid cyst of the brain.
- The SOPs cover arachnoid cysts in both the brain and the spinal canal.
- An arachnoid cyst is a sac containing cerebrospinal fluid formed in one of the lining layers of the brain and spinal cord.
- They are usually congenital, but may be acquired. They are often asymptomatic and found incidentally.

Acute myeloid leukaemia

Revocation - 71 & 72 of '15

Replaces 35 and 36 of '06
as amended by 43 & 44 of '11

- The definition has been updated, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for being obese and for specified autoimmune diseases.
- There are new RH only factors for: HIV infection; solid organ transplant; and, formaldehyde exposure.
- The smoking factors have been modified, with new minimum latency periods and longer cessation periods.
- The previous myelodysplastic disorder factor is now a specified haematological disorder factor. Myelodysplastic disorder has been renamed myelodysplastic syndrome and is one of the specified haematological disorders.
- The previous "course of chemotherapy" factor is now a "treatment with a drug" factor, with azathioprine added to the list of drugs in the RH SOP only.
- The "exposed to benzene" factor has been updated, with a change from a dose expressed in days, to one in hours. There has also been a change to the "being

exposed to benzene" definition. The previously separate AVGAS factor has now been rolled into that definition. (Note: AVGAS is used in some piston engine aircraft, but not jet/turboprop aircraft. Modern AVGAS typically contains < 0.1% benzene).

- For the separate "cumulative exposure to benzene" factors the doses have been reduced.

Myelodysplastic syndrome

Revocation - 73 & 74 of '15

Replaces 37 and 38 of '06

as amended by 45 & 46 of '11

- There has been a name change from myelodysplastic disorder and some minor changes to the definition.
- The factors in these SOPs, and the changes, are essentially the same as for acute myeloid leukaemia (see above).
- There is an additional new factor for aplastic anaemia (RH & BOP).

Myasthenia gravis

Revocation - 75 & 76 of '15

Replaces 15 and 16 of '07

- The transplant factor now applies for onset (previously worsening only) and now also covers stem cell transplants.
- There is a new "drug from a class of drugs" factor for worsening (RH & BOP).
- Additional drugs have been added to both of the previous specified drug lists.

Trigeminal neuralgia

Revocation - 77 & 78 of '15

Replaces 54 and 55 of '09

- The trigeminal nerve is the fifth cranial nerve. Its function includes supplying sensation to the face and motor function to the jaw.
- The trigeminal neuralgia SOP covers a clinical syndrome involving attacks of pain in the distribution of the trigeminal nerve, without loss of function (motor, sensory, or autonomic) of the nerve. The trigeminal neuropathy SOP covers loss of function in the trigeminal nerve, with or without associated pain.
- There is a new RH and BOP factor for vascular lesions causing local compression.
- There is a new RH only factor for limbic encephalitis.

- The previous local infection factor has been reorganised, with infections causing a mass (e.g. abscess) rolled into the "mass lesion" factor and other relevant localised infections now having a separate factor.

Trigeminal neuropathy

Revocation - 79 & 80 of '15

Replaces 29 and 30 of '09

- The trigeminal neuropathy SOP covers loss of motor, sensory or autonomic function in the trigeminal nerve (with or without pain). The trigeminal neuralgia SOP covers intermittent pain in the distribution of the trigeminal nerve, without loss of function of the nerve.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for: cervical disc prolapse or syringomyelia, at C3 or above; moderate to severe traumatic brain injury; biphosphonate-related osteonecrosis; a dose of ionising radiation; osteoradionecrosis of the mandible; and, lumbar puncture or epidural anaesthesia.
- There are new RH only factors for: envenomation by a specific spider; facial contact dermatitis from a specific plant; and, limbic encephalitis.

Tuberculosis

Revocation - 81 & 82 of '15

Replaces 43 and 44 of '07

- In the definition several further species of mycobacteria have been added to the list of organisms that are covered by the SOP.
- In keeping with changes to other SOPs concerning infections, there is now a factor for "being exposed to" the relevant organism, with an associated definition. This replaces several previous factors that concerned ways the organisms could be transmitted.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for: passive smoking; alcohol consumption; and, alcohol use disorder.
- There is a new RH only factor for inhaled glucocorticoids (usually taken for asthma).
- The new style "being in an immunocompromised state" factor replaces previous factors for malnutrition and being immunosuppressed.

Depressive disorder**Revocation - 83 & 84 of '15**Replaces 27 and 28 of '08
as amended by 40 & 41 of '10

- The definition has been updated for DSM-5. Note that in the new template, the definitions for the subtypes of depressive disorder covered by the SOP are now in the dictionary.
- All the onset factors relate to only particular subtypes of depressive disorder, whereas the worsening factors apply to all of the subtypes of depressive disorder that are covered by the SOPs.
- There are new RH & BOP factors covering epilepsy and severe chronic medical conditions.
- There are new RH only factors covering severe and permanent tinnitus, vitamin D deficiency, obesity and smoking.

Cardiomyopathy**Revocation - 85 & 86 of '15**Replaces 23 and 24 of '07
and 35 and 36 of '07

- Familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, previously covered by a separate SOP, is now included in this SOP. Other forms of genetic cardiomyopathy, previously non-SOP, are now also covered by this SOP.
- There are new RH & BOP factors for: cobalt poisoning; Whipple's disease; systemic vasculitis; and, cirrhosis.
- There is a new RH only factor for coeliac disease.
- There are further new factors specific to:
 - familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy - for physical activity; and
 - Takotsubo cardiomyopathy - for stressors and serious illnesses/injuries.
- The previous morbid obesity is now for being obese in the RH SOP and has been removed from the BOP SOP.
- The previous specified autoimmune disease factor is now covered by a factor for inflammatory connective tissue disease.
- The RH only factors covering corticosteroids have been removed.

Chickenpox**Revocation - 87 & 88 of '15**

Replaces 25 and 26 of '07

- The factor covering exposure to the virus now allows a longer incubation period in specified circumstances.

- The previous worsening factor (RH & BOP) for being in an immunocompromised state has been removed.

Malignant neoplasm of the gallbladder	Revocation - 89 & 90 of '15 Replaces 67 and 68 of '07 as amended by 51 & 52 of '11
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- There are new RH and BOP factors for being obese and having diabetes.
- There are new RH only factors for smoking and having porcelain gallbladder.
- The previous factor (RH & BOP) for having ulcerative colitis has been removed.

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	Amendment - 93 of '15 Amends 28 of '10 as amended by 57 & 86 of '14
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- The Specialist Medical Review Council has directed the RMA to include a new RH factor for ionising radiation.
- The 0.1 Sievert dose could only realistically be met by someone who had undergone therapeutic radiation.
- Note that amendments to SOPs will use the same template as the original SOP. Hence, this amendment is not made using the new SOP template.
- The date of effect for this amendment is backdated to the date of the *Gazettal* of the SMRC decision, which was 27 April 2015.

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