



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Compensation & Income Support Policy Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 2 APRIL, 2018

New SOPs	Popliteal cyst
Revocations & Replacements	Personality disorder Toxic retinopathy Accidental hypothermia Guillain-Barre syndrome Systemic sclerosis Malignant neoplasm of the eye Chilblains
Amendments	Suicide and attempted suicide Malignant neoplasm of the ovary

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Popliteal cyst	New – 31 & 32 of 2018
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- This new SOP covers clinically evident cystic swelling behind the knee due to enlargement of a bursa. The condition is also known as Baker's cyst.

- A number of causal factors have been included for various knee joint pathologies.

Personality disorder

Revocation – 17 & 18 of 2018

Replaces 70 & 71 of 2008

- The definition has been updated with the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria, but coverage is unchanged.
- There are minor changes only, with removal of the temporal link in the child abuse factor and updating of the psychiatric condition/disorder of mental health factor and definition.

Toxic retinopathy

Revocation – 19 & 20 of 2018

Replaces 39 & 40 of 2009

- The SOP has been renamed from toxic maculopathy and the SOP coverage broadened as a result.
- Mefloquine has been added to a reworked quinoline anti-malarial drugs factor.
- The previous single factor for antimicrobials injected into the eye is now two factors, one for aminoglycoside antibiotics and one for antiviral agents.
- There are new factors for:
 - Being treated with ritonavir or interferon.
 - Being treated with topiramate – RH only (seizure and migraine treatment).
 - Poisoning with cobalt – RH only (from faulty joint replacement).
 - Taking canthaxanthin (tanning pills).
 - Inhaling isopropyl nitrite (recreational inhalant – ‘poppers’).
 - Use of IV drugs containing talc (contaminant in illicit drugs).
 - For cystoid macula oedema only:
 - Taking niacin (vitamin b3).
 - Treatment with paclitaxel or docetaxel (chemotherapy).
 - Treatment with rosiglitazone or pioglitazone – RH only (for type 2 diabetes).
 - Treatment with adrenaline eye drops
 - Treatment with latanoprost – RH only (for glaucoma).

Accidental hypothermia**Revocation – 21 & 22 of 2018**

Replaces 17 & 18 of 2010

- There are no material changes, apart from the addition of a note that describes circumstances in which exposure to low environmental temperatures may occur.

Guillain-Barre syndrome**Revocation – 23 & 24 of 2018**

Replaces 59 & 60 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted and reworked, but with no change in SOP coverage.
- There are changes to factors covering infections with:
 - Further infections added to the infections from the specified list factor.
 - Herpes simplex added (RH only) to the herpes zoster infection factor.
 - A new factor (RH and BOP) for respiratory tract or gastrointestinal infections.
- A number of previously covered (RH only) vaccines have been removed from the vaccines factor.
- The two previously separate malignancy factors have been combined.
- There are new RH only factors for treatment with a tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitor and having systemic lupus erythematosus.

Systemic sclerosis**Revocation – 25 & 26 of 2018**

Replaces 64 & 65 of 2009

- The definition has been reformatted and reworked, but with no change in SOP coverage.
- The previous trichloroethylene factor has been expanded, in the RH SOP only, to an organic solvents factor.
- There is a new RH only factor for treatment with an ergot alkaloid for migraine.
- There are new worsening factors for glucocorticoid therapy (applies to scleroderma renal crisis only) and smoking (RH only).

Malignant neoplasm of the eye**Revocation – 27 & 28 of 2018**

Replaces 15 & 16 of 2010

- The definition has been reformatted and reworked, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- The UV-emitting tanning device factor now applies to all types of MN of the eye (previously melanoma only).
- There are now separate factors for immunosuppressive drugs and undergoing a transplant, with different latencies, applying to all types of MN of the eye (previously there was a combined factor for uveal melanoma only).
- There is a new RH only factor, for uveal melanoma only, for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) exposure (as specified). [Manufacture of PCBs ceased in the 1970s in developed countries.]
- There are new factors:
 - For eye melanoma only: for undergoing PUVA therapy (RH only); and, for photokeratitis.
 - For conjunctival melanoma only, for having a conjunctival transplant.
 - For SCC only: for PUVA therapy (with different dose and latency than in eye melanoma factor); treatment with voriconazole; and, having an ocular prosthesis.

Chilblains**Revocation – 29 & 30 of 2018**

Replaces 9 & 10 of 2009

- A note describing clinical manifestations has been added to the definition.
- The disease from the specified list factor now covers 5 additional diseases.
- A new onset factor (RH and BOP) has been added for low body mass index.

Suicide and attempted suicide**Amendment – 33 & 34 of 2018**

Amends 65 & 66 of 2016

- There are changes to the category 2 stressor factor and definition:
 - Part of the descriptor of the stressor (chronic in nature, causes distress etc.) has been moved from the definition to the factor.
 - A note has been added describing different circumstances in which a category 2 stressor can arise and be connected with service (including separation from service)

and transition to civilian life). A connection with service does not establish that a stressor is 'related to service'. That link still needs to be evaluated by the decision maker.

- Part (a) of the definition of a category 2 stressor, concerning social isolation, now refers to having 'psychiatric symptomatology' (changed from 'psychiatric illness'). This change removes the need to have a prior formally diagnosed psychiatric disorder.

Malignant neoplasm of the ovary

Amendment – 35 & 36 of 2018

Amends 9 & 10 of 2018

- The amendment corrects a numbering error (in section 10).

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