



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Compensation & Income Support Policy Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 28 MAY, 2018

New SOPs	Central serous chorioretinopathy Temporomandibular disorder Mesenteric panniculitis
Revocations & Replacements	Tension-type headache Herpes simplex Electrical injury Cushing syndrome
Amendment	Malignant neoplasm of the pancreas

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Central serous chorioretinopathy	New – 45 & 46 of 2018
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- Central serous chorioretinopathy results in acute or subacute loss or distortion of central vision. The condition is a form of retinal detachment and is due to an accumulation of fluid beneath the retina. It is most common in middle-age males. It is self-limiting in most people, resolving within 2 to 3 months, but can persist and become chronic in some subjects.

- The condition is strongly associated with corticosteroid use. Other risk factors in the SOP include specified drugs, Cushing syndrome, pregnancy and chronic renal failure.

Temporomandibular disorder

New – 47 & 48 of 2018

- This new SOP covers a range of (pain) conditions involving the temporomandibular joint (of the jaw) and its associated muscles and related structures.
- The SOP definition is complex and requires significant pain with associated distress or functional impairment and confirmatory clinical or imaging evidence.
- The SOP factors cover a spectrum, including underlying pathologies, trauma, functional disorders, psychological factors and physical activities.

Mesenteric panniculitis

New – 49 & 50 of 2018

- Mesenteric panniculitis is inflammation of the fat cells of the mesentery of the small intestine and colon. The mesentery is a continuous fold of tissue that supports the intestines and attaches them to the abdominal wall. The condition is rare and is generally associated with chronic inflammation with scarring and a range of abdominal symptoms, including pain.
- The causes of the condition are poorly understood. The only onset factor in the new SOP is for mycobacterial infection (RH only).

Tension-type headache

Revocation – 37 & 38 of 2018

Replaces 1 & 2 of 2010

- The definition has been updated in line with the updated International Headache Society Classification (ICHD-3). There are changes to the frequency/minimum number of headaches required along with a new requirement for significant distress or impairment and the exclusion of headaches due to physiological or extraneous triggers.
- The SOP information page in CLIK will contain additional information relating to the diagnosis of this condition and distinguishing headaches as a disease, from the infrequent, episodic tension-type headaches that occur in almost everyone.

- There are new RH only onset and worsening factors for: a clinically significant disorder of mental health; a category 2 stressor; insomnia; and, concussion or moderate to severe head injury.

Herpes simplex	Revocation – 39 & 40 of 2018 Replaces 3 & 4 of 2010
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- The definition has been reorganised, with some additional clinical information provided.
- There is a new factor for chemical or thermal burn close to the site of infection, within seven days. This is in addition to the previous significant thermal burn (anywhere) within 30 days factor.
- There are a number of new onset and worsening factors for sub-types of herpes simplex:
 - For orofacial herpes simplex – a fever as specified.
 - For orofacial herpes simplex or genital herpes simplex – a category 2 stressor (RH only).
 - For corneal herpes simplex: cataract surgery; corneal transplant; contact lens use; or topical prostaglandin treatment (RH only).
 - For acute herpes simplex retinal necrosis – periocular trauma as specified (RH only).
 - For herpes simplex of the eye – atopic dermatitis.
 - For eczema herpeticum – atopic dermatitis or a specified dermatosis.
 - For herpes simplex of the lip – chapped lips or playing a musical instrument as specified.

Electrical injury	Revocation – 41 & 42 of 2018 Replaces 31 & 32 of 2009
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- This SOP covers injury or death from manufactured electric current or from lightning strike. The SOP definition has been simplified.
- The only SOP causal factor is for exposure to electric current (which includes lightning).

Cushing syndrome**Revocation – 43 & 44 of 2018**

Replaces 33 & 34 of 2019

- There has been a minor name change, from Cushing’s syndrome
- The definition has been amended to include information on clinical features.
- Previously separate factors for various neoplasms/hyperplasia have been amalgamated into one factor (with a list of specified conditions).
- The multiple definitions relating to the “glucocorticoid as specified” factor have been amended and updated.

Malignant neoplasm of the pancreas**Amendment – 51 of 2018**

Amends 73 of 2013

- The amendment (in the RH SOP only) is to the dose in the DDT factor, which is now expressed in cumulative hours (now 1000 hours, previously on more days than not for a year). DDT (an insecticide) was first used by Australian personnel in WW2 (in PNG from 1944) for malaria control. It was used extensively in Australia from the 1950s, before being phased out from the early 1970s and then completely banned in Australia in 1987.

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