



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

**Compensation & Income Support Policy Branch**

# SOP Bulletin No. 204

10 September 2018

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 24 SEPTEMBER, 2018**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Adrenal insufficiency Sinusitis Reactive arthritis Scrub typhus Bronchiolitis obliterans organising pneumonia</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Malignant neoplasm of the breast Loss of teeth Tooth wear Multiple conditions<sup>#</sup> – category 1B stressor definition Motor neurone disease*</b>

<sup>#</sup> See list below

\* Date of effect 21 June 2018

## NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

### Adrenal insufficiency

**Revocation – 71 & 72 of 2018**

Replaces 74 & 75 of 2009

- Several existing factors have been updated, with additions to lists of infiltrative diseases, infections and drugs, and changes to the definitions concerning glucocorticoids.
- There are new factors for:
  - having a critical illness or injury, as defined, and;
  - for adrenal crisis only, having an acute severe stressor within the 7 days before.
- The latter covers factors which trigger an adrenal crisis rather than cause adrenal insufficiency.

### Sinusitis

**Revocation – 73 & 74 of 2018**

Replaces 9 & 10 of 2010

- Bacterial and fungal respiratory tract infections having been added to the existing viral infections factor.
- Previous factors for diabetes, allergic rhinitis, sinus barotrauma and GORD have been consolidated into a specified medical conditions factor, with asthma added to the list.
- The previous “inhaling a specified substance” factor has been changed to “inhaling a drug or irritant substance” and now covers a wider range of substances.
- The previous RH only smoking factor has been extended to BOP and changed to a pack-year dose.
- There are new factors for: second hand smoke (RH and BOP); airborne pollutants (dust, fumes and smoke from fires - RH only); and, for sinusitis with nasal polyps only, using NSAIDs as specified (RH & BOP, worsening only).

### Reactive arthritis

**Revocation – 75 & 76 of 2018**

Replaces 26 & 27 of 2010

- For the specified infections factor the temporal period has been extended from within 30 days before to within 3 months before.

- There is one new factor, for having active mycobacterial disease within the 30 days before onset.

<b>Scrub typhus</b>	<b>Revocation – 77 &amp; 78 of 2018</b> Replaces 72 & 73 of 2009
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- The SOP has been updated into the usual format for infection SOPs. It now has a single onset factor, and associated definition, listing the possible ways of being exposed to the causative organism.

<b>Bronchiolitis obliterans organising pneumonia</b>	<b>Revocation – 79 &amp; 80 of 2018</b> Replaces 62 & 63 of 2009
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- In the drugs factor there have been some amendments to the list of drugs. There is also a new idiosyncratic drug reaction factor.
- Factors have been removed concerning anthrax vaccine and coronary artery bypass graft surgery
- A factor have been added for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (RH and BOP).

<b>Malignant neoplasm of the breast</b>	<b>Amendment – 81 &amp; 82 of 2018</b> Amends 96 & 97 of 2014
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- The amendments clarify the intent of the factor relating to breastfeeding, replacing the current factor with one concerning parous women having an inability to breast feed.

<b>Loss of teeth</b>	<b>Amendment – 83 &amp; 84 of 2018</b> Amends 124 & 125 of 2015
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- The amendments add a new factor (RH and BOP, onset only) for having tooth wear involving the affected tooth at the time.

**Tooth wear****Amendment – 85 & 86 of 2018**

Amends 52 &amp; 53 of 2017

- The amendments add a new factor (RH and BOP, onset and worsening) for vomiting or regurgitating gastric contents on at least 100 occasions within the one year before.

**Multiple conditions – category 1B stressor definition****Amendment – 87 of 2018**

- The amendment applies to all SOPs with a category 1B stressor factor, apart from bipolar disorder and panic disorder, which were updated in July, i.e.:
  - acute stress disorder
  - adjustment disorder
  - alcohol use disorder
  - anxiety disorder
  - cardiomyopathy
  - cerebrovascular accident
  - chronic multisymptom illness
  - depressive disorder
  - eating disorder
  - female sexual dysfunction
  - gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer
  - gingivitis
  - inflammatory bowel disease
  - ischaemic heart disease
  - multiple sclerosis
  - personality disorder
  - posttraumatic stress disorder
  - psoriasis
  - schizophrenia
  - substance use disorder
  - suicide and attempted suicide
- The category 1B stressor definition is now:
  - **"a category 1B stressor"** means one of the following severe traumatic events:
    - (a) killing or maiming a person;
    - (b) being an eyewitness to a person being killed or critically injured;
    - (c) being an eyewitness to atrocities inflicted on another person;
    - (d) participating in the clearance of a corpse or a critically injured casualty; or

(e) viewing a corpse or a critically injured casualty as an eyewitness;

- The changes are to parts (d) and (e), where the references to corpse and critically injured casualty have been changed from the plural to the singular. These parts are now consistent with parts (a) to (c), where singular terms are used. Note that in the interpretation of SOPs and other legislation/legislative instruments there is a general principle that a plural term includes the singular and vice versa (unless the contrary intention appears).
- There is an additional change to the definition of an eyewitness, which now “means a person who experiences an incident first hand and can give direct evidence of it. This excludes persons exposed only to public broadcasting or mass media coverage of the incident”.
- How this amended definition will apply for various scenarios and personnel involved in experiencing an incident from a remote location (e.g. via a video stream from a drone) is not clear. A policy response is being developed.
- There is also a new, related definition of corpse, which includes a requirement for the person (corpse) to have met a violent or horrific death.

**Motor neurone disease**

**Amendment – 88 of 2018**

Amends 67 of 2013

- At the direction of the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC), the RMA has removed two onset factors from the RH SOP. The factors concerned brain injury and blows to the head. There were no equivalent factors in the BOP SOP.
- As previously advised, the date of effect of this amendment is the date of gazettal of the decision by the SMRC, which was 21 June 2018.

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