



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Eligibility and Payments Policy Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 208

13 May 2019

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 27 MAY, 2019

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| New SOPs | Nil |
| Revocations & Replacements | Rapidly progressive crescentic glomerulonephritis Posterior adventitial heel bursitis Poisoning from plants or fungi Rheumatic heart disease Acute rheumatic fever Dislocation of a joint and subluxation of a joint Joint instability Gout |
| Amendments | Nil |

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

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| Rapidly progressive crescentic glomerulonephritis | Revocation – 45 & 46 of 2019 Replaces 81 & 82 of 2010 |
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- There are minor wording changes and one new factor (RH & BOP), for specified preceding renal diseases.

Posterior adventitial heel bursitis**Revocation – 47 & 48 of 2019**

Replaces 77 & 78 of 2010

- The name of the SOP has changed, from heel bursitis. The SOP still concerns bursitis of the superficial retro-Achilles bursa (between the skin and the distal Achilles tendon). It does not cover bursitis of other, deeper bursa around the heel (retrocalcaneal bursa and plantar calcaneal bursa).
- A previous reference in the SOP definition to Haglund’s disease has been removed. A Haglund deformity is now a factor in the SOP.
- The footwear factor in the SOP has been amended, with the “ill-fitting” requirement removed. Any footwear that rubs on the back of the heel is now covered.

Poisoning from plants or fungi**Revocation – 49 & 50 of 2019**

Replaces 84 & 85 of 2010

- The name of the SOP has changed. It was previously “poisoning and toxic reaction from plants and fungi”. “Toxic reaction” was seen as redundant and so was removed.
- The definition has been updated and the exclusion list expanded, for clarification, but coverage is unchanged.
- There are several new factors for types of delayed toxicity (up to two years later) from exposure (direct, or indirect via food) to specific plants.

Rheumatic heart disease**Revocation – 51 & 52 of 2019**

Replaces 19 & 20 of 2011

- There is a new factor (RH & BOP, onset & worsening) for experiencing crowded living or working conditions (at least 3 months before).

Acute rheumatic fever**Revocation – 53 & 54 of 2019**

Replaces 23 & 24 of 2011

- There is a new factor (RH and BOP, onset only) that allows for a longer time period (9 months vs 3 months) from infection to onset if the clinical presentation is in the form of isolated chorea (a movement disorder) or indolent subclinical carditis.
- There are other, new, RH only, onset factors for: a prior group C or G streptococcal infection; and, having dental caries.

Dislocation of a joint and subluxation of a joint**Revocation – 55 & 56 of 2019**

Replaces 24 & 25 of 2010

- The name of the SOP has been amended and expanded (previously “dislocation”).
- SOP coverage is effectively unchanged but the definition now specifically mentions that internal joint prostheses (artificial joints) are covered.
- A previously separate factor for capsule or ligament laxity has been folded into the soft tissue damage factor.
- Similarly, previous factors for:
 - a biomechanical abnormality; and
 - for the atlantoaxial joint only, ear nose and throat inflammation and head or neck surgery;have been folded into other factors.
- Previously separate factors, for the temporomandibular joint only, for tracheal intubation and intravenous sedation, have been combined into one factor together with other causes of wide mouth opening.
- There are several new factors, for lower limb joints or joint prostheses as specified, covering forms of obesity and lumbar spine conditions.

Joint instability**Revocation – 57 & 58 of 2019**

Replaces 32 & 33 of 2010

- The definition has been updated. It now specifically includes instability in a joint with a prosthesis (joint replacement), but does not cover a loose prosthetic component (which is most common in the femoral component of a replaced hip joint).

- Trauma, dislocation/subluxation and sprain, which were indirectly covered by previous factors for soft tissue damage, laxity and fracture, have now been added as separate factors.
- A new factor has been added for pregnancy.
- Further new factors, for specific joints or specific joints with prostheses, have been added for: various lower limb joints or prostheses and (degrees of) obesity; hip prosthesis and lumbar spine conditions; temporomandibular joint and wide mouth opening; and elbow joint and local steroid injections.

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| Gout | Revocation – 31 & 32 of 2019 Replaces 30 & 31 of 2010 |
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- The definition has been updated, with no change to SOP coverage.
- The previous drugs factor has been expanded into three factors (antihypertensives, aspirin, other drugs), and by the inclusion of additional drugs.
- A previous BOP factor for obesity now covers being overweight. There is no change to the RH overweight factor.
- The regular alcohol consumption factor dose has been lowered (now 120 gm/wk for 3 months for both RH and BOP).
- The previous factors for red meat (or offal) now cover any meat (or offal), but also have higher doses.
- The previous factor for fructose containing drinks now also covers drinks sweetened with sucrose.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for: dehydration; total parenteral nutrition; and, having psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis.
- There is a new RH only factor for surgery (within 48 hours before).
- A previous RH only factor for Diabetes mellitus has been removed.

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