



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Eligibility and Payments Policy Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 210

9 September 2019

THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 23 SEPTEMBER, 2019

New SOPs	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Morton metatarsalgia Varicocoele Conductive hearing loss Malignant neoplasm of the bladder Obstructive and reflux nephropathy Anal fissure
Amendments	Hypertension

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Morton metatarsalgia	Revocation – 77 & 78 of 2019 Replaces 92 & 93 of 2010
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- There has been a name change, from “Morton’s metatarsalgia”, in keeping with the RMA’s policy for eponymously named diseases.
- The existing footwear factor has been modified to now include footwear that increases pressure on the ball of the foot, or has a high heel.

- The previous biomechanical abnormality factor has been amended and now covers deformities of the foot. There is now a specified list of such deformities (vs. the previous example list of abnormalities).
- A previous specified condition factor, covering infection, inflammatory arthritis and a space occupying lesion, has been reduced to a factor for inflammatory arthritis only.

Varicocele	Revocation – 79 & 80 of 2019 Replaces 3 & 4 of 2011
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- There has been a spelling change to the name of the SOP, from “varicocele”.
- Previously separate factors for occlusion or narrowing of various veins have been combined into one factor.
- There are new onset and worsening factors for ankylosing spondylitis (RH & BOP) and for Bechet disease (RH only).
- There are new RH only, worsening only factors, for varicocele rupture only, covering various physical activities as specified, or local trauma.

Conductive hearing loss	Revocation – 81 & 82 of 2019 Replaces 7 & 8 of 2011
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- The disease definition wording has been amended and is now closer in style to the definition in the SOPs for sensorineural hearing loss. This is a reformatting, not a change to SOP coverage.
- The previous factor for Paget’s disease now covers a list of bone diseases.
- There is a separate new RH only factor for osteoporosis.
- Acoustic trauma was previously combined in a factor with otitic barotrauma, but now has a separate factor, for a peak sound pressure level of 140 dB, matching the format in the sensorineural hearing loss SOP.
- The previous rheumatoid arthritis factor has been expanded to now cover a list of specified autoimmune diseases.
- There are new factors for: an explosive blast; lightning strike; and middle ear neoplasms or mass lesions (all RH & BOP, onset and worsening).

Malignant neoplasm of the bladder**Revocation – 83 & 84 of 2019**Replaces 96 & 97 of 2011
as amended

- The previous factor for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons has been split into two factors. Both have lowered cumulative dose requirements, but both also concern exposures that would likely occur in civilian rather than military settings (with one or two exceptions).
- Doses or latency periods have been lowered in existing factors for: diesel engine exhaust; aromatic amines; work as a hairdresser or barber; work as a painter; and aristolochic acid.
- The previously RH only factors for tetrachloroethylene and for renal or bladder stones have been included in the BOP SOP.
- There are new RH only factors for: 2-mercaptobenzothiazole; lead; opium; and chronic urinary tract infection.

Obstructive and reflux nephropathy**Revocation – 85 & 86 of 2019**

Replaces 31 & 32 of 2011

- The factors for upper and lower urinary tract obstruction have been simplified, with short notes replacing the previous long lists of examples.
- The previous factor for functional obstruction of the ureter or renal calyx has been replaced by a factor for neurogenic bladder (removing coverage for intravesical BCG and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus).
- The previous specified drugs factor has been removed.

Anal fissure**Revocation – 87 & 88 of 2019**

Amends 73 & 74 of 2010

- The definition now specifically excludes anal skin lesions due to inflammatory bowel disease, neoplasms or anal infections.
- The previous factor for having inflammatory bowel disease has consequently been removed.
- Previous coverage for being treated with nicorandil (an angina medication) has also been removed.

- The amendment adds new onset and worsening factors, in the RH SOP only, for exposure to phenoxy acid herbicides (2,4-D and 2,4,5-T) or to agents contaminated by TCDD (dioxin). Onset or worsening of hypertension has to be within 25 years of last exposure.

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