



Australian Government
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Eligibility and Payments Policy Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 23 MARCH, 2020

New SOPs	Osteonecrosis
Revocations & Replacements	Chronic multisymptom illness Acute pancreatitis Hypersensitivity pneumonitis Malignant neoplasm of the nasopharynx Multiple sclerosis
Amendments	Migraine Acute myeloid leukaemia Malignant neoplasm of the lung Malignant neoplasm of the eye
Repeal	Dysbaric osteonecrosis

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Osteonecrosis

New –13 & 14 of 2020

- Osteonecrosis is death of bone due to loss of blood supply.
- These new SOPs effectively replace the now repealed SOPs for dysbaric osteonecrosis and extend SOP coverage to all causes of osteonecrosis, including dysbaric osteonecrosis.
- In addition to the previous dysbaric factors (for pressure related effects from diving, submarines etc.) there are more than 20 new factors covering e.g. trauma, infections, other diseases and drugs.

Chronic multisymptom illness

Revocation – 3 & 4 of 2020

Replaces 55 & 56 of 2014
as amended

- The definition has been changed, by deleting two elements, but otherwise keeping the same format and wording. The definition no longer requires that:
 - “one symptom in each of the categories must be rated as severe”; and
 - “Any or all of the symptoms are not better explained by another medical or psychiatric condition.”
- A note has also been added, ahead of the definition, to indicate/confirm that the SOP can apply, like any other SOP, to any veteran/serving member with relevant VEA/MRCA service (and is not restricted to Gulf war veterans).
- There are no changes to the previous RH SOP factors. The BOP SOP continues to have only an “inability to obtain appropriate clinical management” worsening factor.

Acute pancreatitis

Revocation – 5 & 6 of 2020

Replaces 85 & 86 of 2011

- The definition has been reformatted, but is otherwise unchanged.
- The order of factors has been changed significantly from the previous SOP.

- There are new factors (RH and BOP) for diabetes mellitus, spinal cord injury and obesity (for severe pancreatitis only).
- For alcohol consumption, the dose and duration of consumption has changed, with a longer period of drinking now required.
- The previous ascariasis or clonorchiasis factor has become a specified list of infestations factor, with more infestations now covered.
- The previous 'drug from the specified table' factor is now in the usual 'specified list of drugs' format and more broadly covers drug classes rather than specific drugs from within classes.
- The previous surgery factor has been extended to a specified procedures factor, which now includes spinal surgery and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy.
- The acute toxicity factor now includes aspirin in overdose.

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis

Revocation – 7 & 8 of 2020

Replaces 87 & 88 of 2011

- There has been a name change for this SOP. It was previously called extrinsic allergic alveolitis. Hypersensitivity pneumonitis is now the more commonly used label for the condition.
- The SOP covers immune-mediated lung inflammation due to inhalation of an antigen. It does not cover immune-mediated lung inflammation from antigens that are not inhaled (e.g. ingested drugs).
- There are no new factors. The existing factors and definitions have been reworked and reworded, but there is no material change to the way they operate.

Malignant neoplasm of the nasopharynx

Revocation – 9 & 10 of 2020

Replaces 25 & 26 of 2011

- There is one new RH only factor, for having chronic sinusitis or chronic rhinitis.
- The previous two factors for formaldehyde have been consolidated into one factor.
- There are updates to the formatting and wording for the definition and most factors, along with some minor dose and timing or exposure changes.
- An HIV infection factor has been removed from the BOP SOP.

Multiple sclerosis**Revocation – 11 & 12 of 2020**

Replaces 100 & 101 of 2011
as amended

- The definition has been reworked, with some additional information on included and excluded conditions.
- There are new factors for: passive smoking (RH & BOP); treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors (RH only for onset, both RH & BOP for worsening); type 1 diabetes (RH only); being overweight (RH) or obese (BOP); and dyslipidaemia (RH worsening only).
- The vitamin D deficiency factor (< 50 nanomoles/litre) has been retained but the separate vitamin D insufficiency factor (< 75 nanomoles/litre) has been removed.
- Previous RH only factors for death of a related child and being postpartum have been removed.

Migraine**Amendment – 15 & 16 of 2020**

Amends 7 & 8 of 2018

- The amendment is to the definition. The previous version has a simple clinical description that didn't adequately address the complexity of migraine, which is a group of related conditions. The new definition now details the types of migraine that are covered by the SOP (migraine without aura, migraine with aura (and its sub-types), chronic migraine and vestibular migraine). There are also new sub-definitions for each of those types. The list of exclusions has been expanded as well, to clarify the status of some other (non-headache) "migraine" sub-types (hemiplegic migraine, abdominal migraine, migrainous infarction). These are not covered by the SOP.
- There are no other SOP changes.

Acute myeloid leukaemia**Amendment – 17 of 2020**

Amends 71 of 2015, as amended

- The amendment, to the RH SOP only, adds new onset factors for several (now obsolete/banned) insecticides (dieldrin, aldrin and diazinon). These agents were used by Australian forces in Vietnam and possibly also in earlier, post WW2 conflicts in which Australian forces were involved.

Malignant neoplasm of the lung**Amendment – 18 of 2020**

Amends 92 of 2014, as amended

- The amendment, to the RH SOP only, adds a new onset factor for the now banned chemical diazinon. This agent was used, in liquid and powder form, as a contact insecticide by Australian forces in Vietnam. It was also possibly used in earlier, post WW2 conflicts in which Australian forces were involved.

Malignant neoplasm of the eye**Amendment – 19 & 20 of 2020**

Amends 27 & 28 of 2018

- The amendment is to the immunosuppressive drug factor, with new minimum treatment duration and maximum latency requirements added. The factor has also been made the same in the RH and BOP SOPs. The associated definition note has been reformatted but is otherwise unchanged.

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