



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 216

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 28 SEPTEMBER, 2020

New SOPs	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Non-aneurysmal aortic atherosclerotic disease Carotid artery disease Renal artery atherosclerotic disease Aplastic anaemia Pure red cell aplasia* Chloracne Chronic pancreatitis Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage
Amendments	Trochanteric bursitis and gluteal tendinopathy

* Previously covered by aplastic anaemia SOP – now a stand-alone SOP.

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

The arterial/atherosclerotic disease SOPs are being reviewed collectively by the RMA, with three revised SOPs in this batch and further updates to follow. This has seen some better alignment of factors across SOPs for atherosclerotic disease and more consistency in doses where the science allows.

Non-aneurysmal aortic atherosclerotic disease

Revocation – 52 & 53 of 2020

Replaces 15 & 16 of 2012, as amended

- Complications of aortic atherosclerosis, previously covered by this SOP, are being moved to an expanded SOP for aortic aneurysm and aortic wall disorders. So penetrating ulcer of the aorta, intramural haematoma, false aortic aneurysm, and aortic rupture are no longer covered by this SOP. These rare events will become non-SOP claims for a period, until a revised aortic aneurysm is issued. The factors in the revoked SOP can be used for guidance if any claims for these conditions need to be determined in the interim.
- Passive smoking (second hand smoke) has been added as a factor to the BOP SOP (previously RH only).
- Schizophrenia has been added to the (RH only) mental health factor that previously covered only depression.
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - inability to undertake activity > 3 Mets;
 - low fruit and veg intake;
 - obesity;
 - HIV and hepatitis C infections;
 - autoimmune disorders.

Carotid artery disease

Revocation – 54 & 55 of 2020

Replaces 37 & 38 of 2012 as amended

- The name of the SOP has been changed, from carotid arterial disease.
- The definition has been reformatted but SOP coverage is unchanged (this SOP covers both atherosclerotic disease and other non-atherosclerotic diseases).

- The smoking and passive smoking factors have been reformatted, in line with other related SOPs.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for:
 - obesity;
 - HIV and hepatitis C infections;
 - non-alcoholic fatty liver disease;
 - autoimmune disorders (specified list).
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - inability to undertake activity > 3 Mets (previously worsening only, now onset);
 - low fruit and veg intake;
 - gout and hyperuricaemia;
 - obstructive sleep apnoea.

Renal artery atherosclerotic disease

Revocation – 56 & 57 of 2020

Replaces 102 & 103 of 2011 as amended

- The definition has been reformatted but is effectively unchanged.
- The smoking factors have been updated (and doses lowered).
- There are new RH and BOP factors for passive smoking (second hand smoke).
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - chronic kidney disease;
 - inability to undertake activity > 3 Mets;
 - low fruit and veg intake; and
 - being obese.

Aplastic anaemia

Revocation – 58 & 59 of 2020

Replaces 50 & 51 of 2012 as amended

- The definition now excludes pure red cell aplasia (see new SOP, below). There are several other new additions to the list of exclusions.

- There has been some reorganisation of and additions to the specified list of drugs factor.
- There are new factors for:
 - Epstein Barr virus (RH only) and parvovirus (RH and BOP);
 - idiosyncratic drug reactions (RH and BOP);
 - haematological malignancies (RH and BOP).
- Other changes include:
 - some relaxations of time periods in some factors;
 - additions to the autoimmune diseases factor list;
 - a lower dose in the benzene factor;
 - removal of a previous factor for therapeutic radiation.

Pure red cell aplasia

Revocation – 60 & 61 of 2020

Replaces 50 & 51 of 2012 as amended

- This condition was previously included in the aplastic anaemia SOP but is now a stand-alone SOP.
- Factors remain similar to those for aplastic anaemia. Changes from the previous aplastic anaemia SOP include:
 - alterations to the specified list of drugs;
 - removal of the previous factors for ecstasy use and therapeutic radiation;
 - addition of factors for Epstein Barr virus (RH only) and parvovirus (RH and BOP);
 - a new factor for idiosyncratic drug reactions (RH and BOP);
 - a new factor for haematological malignancies (RH and BOP);
 - some relaxations of time periods in some factors;
 - a lower dose in the benzene factor.

Chloracne**Revocation – 62 & 63 of 2020**

Replaces 17 & 18 of 2012

- A note has been added to the definition describing clinical manifestations and an exclusion has been added for drug-related acneiform eruptions.
- The factors have been consolidated. There is now one onset factor that covers all relevant exposures, and a corresponding worsening factor. Most of the chemicals that can cause this condition are no longer in use and not available in any commercial products.

Chronic pancreatitis**Revocation – 64 & 65 of 2020**

Replaces 104 & 105 of 2011 as amended

- A note has been added to the definition, describing typical clinical features.
- There have been some updates to the definition, but no material factor changes apart from:
 - The factor for a dose of ionising radiation has been removed (as it was effectively redundant). The other ionising radiation factor, for having a course of therapeutic radiation, is retained.

Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage**Revocation – 66 & 67 of 2020**

Replaces 106 & 107 of 2011 as amended

- The definition has been updated to include the more common types of bone cancer by name and to add secondary bone cancers to the exclusions.
 - Previous factors for Paget's disease and osteomyelitis, that were limited to certain types of bone cancer, now apply to all types of bone cancer.
 - The previous bone infarct factor now covers osteonecrosis (bone infarct is a type of osteonecrosis) and propagates to the SOP for that condition.
 - There are new RH and BOP factors for:
 - having a giant cell tumour (a benign bone tumour); and
 - taking an anthracycline chemotherapeutic agent;
 - There are new RH only factors for:
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- taking growth hormone; and
- taking denosumab (osteoporosis treatment).

Trochanteric bursitis and gluteal tendinopathy**Amendment – 68 & 69 of 2020**

Amends 45 & 46 of 2015

- The “significant disturbance of normal gait” factor, previously in the RH SOP only, has been added to the BOP SOP. The previous associated definition has now been changed to a note (below the factor), which gives examples of relevant conditions. In applying this factor there is a need to know not just that a condition of the type indicated is present, but that it causes the gait (manner of walking) to be significantly altered from normal.

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