



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

**Policy Development Branch**

# SOP Bulletin No. 221

10 May 2021

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 24 MAY 2021**

<b>New SOPs</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Inguinal hernia Open-angle glaucoma Endometriosis</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Cerebrovascular accident Ischaemic heart disease Guillain-Barre syndrome</b>

## **NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**

<b>Inguinal hernia</b>	<b>Revocation – 47 &amp; 48 of 2021</b> Replaces 5 & 6 of 2013
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- The previous increased intra-abdominal pressure factor has been split into separate factors, for acutely increased pressure and chronically increased pressure.

- The radical prostatectomy factor has been expanded to cover laparoscopic and robot assisted versions of this surgery.
- There are new factors for: onchocerciasis (a parasitic worm disease also known as river blindness – onset and worsening); kidney transplant (onset only) and colonoscopy with hernia perforation (worsening only).

<b>Open-angle glaucoma</b>	<b>Revocation – 49 &amp; 50 of 2021</b> Replaces 27 & 28 of 2012 as amended
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- There are new RH only, onset and worsening factors for hypertension and dyslipidaemia.
- A previous specified disorders factor has been split into two factors covering: inflammatory eye diseases; and mass or structural lesions.
- Two previous surgery factors (with different latencies) have been rolled into one eye surgery factor.
- A previous factor for Cushing’s syndrome in the BOP SOP has been removed. It is retained in the RH SOP but now incorporated into a ‘specified list of endocrine diseases’ factor.
- In keeping with current RMA policy, the previous (redundant) factor for a specified dose of ionising radiation has been removed, but the ‘course of therapeutic radiation’ factor is retained.

<b>Endometriosis</b>	<b>Revocation – 51 &amp; 52 of 2021</b> Replaces 41 & 42 of 2012
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- There are new RH only factors for:
  - having a caesarean section; and severe childhood abuse (both onset only); and
  - inability to breast feed; and having pelvic inflammatory disease or endometritis (both for onset and worsening);
- The previous factor covering trauma now only covers penetrating (and not blunt) trauma.
- The previous RH only factor for a BMI of < 20 now covers a BMI of ≤ 18.5.

- The previous RH and BOP hormone replacement therapy factor is now restricted to RH only and for oestrogen therapy only.

<b>Cerebrovascular accident</b>	<b>Amendment – 53 &amp; 54 of 2021</b> Amends 65 & 66 of 2015
<b>Ischaemic heart disease</b>	<b>Amendment – 55 &amp; 56 of 2021</b> Amends 1 & 2 of 2016
<b>Guillain-Barre syndrome</b>	<b>Amendment – 57 &amp; 58 of 2021</b> Amends 23 & 24 of 2018

- Each of these SOPs has been amended by adding coverage for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), i.e. the virus that causes Covid-19.
- In ischaemic heart disease there is a new stand-alone SARS-CoV-2 onset factor and a new worsening sub-factor that applies for myocardial infarct or death only (for RH and BOP, for infection within 30 days before).
- In cerebrovascular accident there is a new onset only factor for SARS-CoV-2 infection within 3 months before. There are no worsening factors in the CVA SOP other than inability. A CVA is an event (rather than a disease, except for recurrent TIAs) and a further CVA is a new event, not a worsening.
- In Guillain-Barre syndrome SARS-CoV-2 has been added to the specified list of viral infections factor (for infections acquired within 2 months before), which applies for onset only (RH and BOP).

**Contact for this bulletin:**

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