



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 225

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 1 NOVEMBER 2021

New conditions	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	Dental pulp and periapical disease Chronic gastritis and chronic gastropathy Malignant neoplasm of the pancreas
Amendments	Nil

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Dental pulp and periapical disease	Revocation – 99 & 100 of 2021 Replaces 3 & 4 of 2014
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- This is the condition for which root canal treatment is required.
- There has been a name change – ‘apical’ has become ‘periapical’. SOP coverage is unchanged. The reformatted definition now lists more entities as being included. These were covered by the old definition but were not mentioned by name.

- The dental caries factor has changed. It previously required the caries to be immediately before onset. Now it can be any time before onset.
- The previously separate blunt injury factor has been rolled into the trauma factor.
- New RH only (onset and worsening) factors have been added for: scleroderma or Sjogren syndrome; and for having osteonecrosis of the jaw.

Chronic gastritis and chronic gastropathy

Revocation – 101 & 102 of 2021

Replaces 25 & 26 of 2013 as amended

- The definition has been reformatted. The previous requirement that gastritis or gastropathy be demonstrated by histology (usually from a biopsy taken during an endoscopy) remains.
- There are three SOP factors, for gastritis only, that cover infections (for *Helicobacter pylori*, other *Helicobacter* species, and other infections). Further organisms have been added to the latter two factors. For the other infections factor there are different lists for RH and BOP.
- The drugs factors (for gastropathy only) have been modified, with some additional drugs now covered. There are separate drug lists for onset and worsening factors. The only difference between them is that the worsening factor covers anticoagulants generally, whereas the onset factor covers only a single anticoagulant - dabigatran etexilate.
- There is also a new standalone drug factor, for gastritis only (onset and worsening), for taking immune checkpoint inhibitors (immunotherapy for cancer). The other drugs factors apply to gastropathy only for onset and to either condition for worsening.
- The factor for a course of therapeutic (ionising) radiation has been retained. The other (redundant) factor for a (high) cumulative dose of ionising radiation has been removed, in keeping with recent RMA practice (the only way to get the high dose that was required was via a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer).

Malignant neoplasm of the pancreas

Revocation – 103 & 104 of 2021

Replaces 73 & 74 of 2013

- There are new RH only factors for acute pancreatitis, hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.
- Being overweight has been added to the obesity factor (RH and BOP).

- The usual formatting updates have been made but there are no material changes to any of the other factors.

Contact for this bulletin:

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