



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

**Policy Development Branch**

# SOP Bulletin No. 226

8 November 2021

**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 22 NOVEMBER 2021**

<b>New conditions</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>Chronic fatigue syndrome Fibromyalgia</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**NOTEWORTHY FEATURES**

<b>Chronic fatigue syndrome</b>	<b>Revocation – 105 &amp; 106 of 2021</b> Replaces 11 & 12 of 2014
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- The definition has been updated in format but SOP coverage is effectively unchanged.
- The RH factor for specified infections has one new addition. *Giardia lamblia*, which causes a diarrheal condition known as giardiasis, is now covered.
- The specified infections factor does not cover SARS-CoV 2 (COVID 19) infection. The SOP is not intended to cover “long COVID”. Long COVID is a not yet well understood or characterised entity. It has a variety of manifestations, including chronic fatigue in

some subjects. It should be regarded for DVA claims purposes as covered by the Coronavirus disease 2019 SOP and as a separate entity to chronic fatigue syndrome at this point.

- There are new RH-only onset factors for: severe childhood abuse; category 1A; and category 1B stressors.

<b>Fibromyalgia</b>	<b>Revocation – 107 &amp; 108 of 2021</b> Replaces 13 & 14 of 2014
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- Fibromyalgia is a disorder involving:
  - chronic widespread pain that is not accounted for by local pathology at the affected sites, and;
  - associated somatic symptoms, particularly moderate to severe persistent fatigue, sleep disturbances, or subjective cognitive disturbances.
- The SOP definition has been amended and slightly strengthened. There is a new requirement that pain be present in at least 4 of 5 specified regions.
- Being overweight has been added to the obesity factor.
- There are new RH-only onset factors for 1A stressors and for having a severe, chronic medical condition.

**Contact for this bulletin:**

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