Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 20 DECEMBER 2021

New conditions	**Gender dysphoria**
Revocations & Replacements	**Chronic solvent-induced neurocognitive disorder** **Motor neurone disease**
Amendments	**Pilonidal sinus**

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

Gender dysphoria	**New – 113 & 114 of 2021**

- This new SOP covers individuals whose gender identity or expression differs from that assigned at birth and where that difference is associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.
- The SOP defines this condition as a disorder of mental health, using criteria derived from DSM 5.

- There can be less severe forms of gender incongruence that do not meet the criteria and do not warrant designation as a disease.
- The RH SOP has worsening factors only, covering: childhood abuse; serious physical attack or assault (a subset of category 1A stressors); category 2 stressors; and inability to obtain appropriate clinical management.
- The BOP SOP has only an "inability" factor.

Chronic solvent-induced neurocognitive disorder	**Revocation – 109 & 110 of 2021** Replaces 71 & 72 of 2013

- There has been a name change, from "chronic solvent encephalopathy". This new name better reflects the clinical picture but doesn't change the SOP coverage.
- The definition has been updated, with some wording changes.
- The SOP has factors that cover both occupational and recreational (intentional) exposures and which concern both chronic and recurrent acute solvent exposure. The existing factors have been updated in wording and format and there have been some changes to the lists of solvents (previously referred to as inhalants or volatile substances).
- There is a new factor covering a single heavy acute exposure with associated persistent brain damage.

Motor neurone disease	**Revocation – 111 & 112 of 2021** Replaces 67 & 68 of 2013 as amended

- The definition has been updated and modernised in line with recent consensus diagnostic criteria. The SOP coverage is now slightly broader. The diagnosis is still complex and needs to be made by a specialist neurologist.
- There are new RH only factors for lead exposure as specified and chronic formaldehyde exposure.

Pilonidal sinus	**Amendment – 115 of 2021** Amends 27 of 2019

- The amendment is to the RH SOP only.

- The previous factor for “driving or being a seated passenger in a motorised vehicle” has been amended and extended to now cover “sitting on a hard or vibrating surface”. The previous 20 hours per week for 3 months requirement is unchanged. So this RH factor now covers a wider range of prolonged sitting situations.

Contact for this bulletin:

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