



Australian Government
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Policy Development Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 4 APRIL 2022

New conditions	eosinophilic oesophagitis exertional heat illness vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia
Revocations & Replacements	hypertension heart block periodontal abscess periodontitis
Amendments	suicide and attempted suicide

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

eosinophilic oesophagitis

New – 29 & 30 of 2022

- This new SOP covers a rare chronic immune disorder of the oesophagus. It typically presents with reflux-like symptoms along with chest/upper abdominal pain and difficulty swallowing.
- Both endoscopy with oesophageal biopsy and characteristic symptoms are needed for diagnosis.
- The SOPs have factors for: specified drugs; allergen immunotherapy; and (for RH only) organ or tissue transplant.

exertional heat illness

New – 31 & 32 of 2022

- This new SOP covers various heat-related health outcomes from exercise in hot conditions, typically in younger persons. It does not cover non-exercise-related heat-induced stress/illness that typically occurs in more elderly or frail people.
- Forms of exertional heat illness that are covered (from mild to severe) are:
 - heat syncope (fainting/collapse due to heat/exercise);
 - heat exhaustion (also known as heat fatigue, heat intolerance and heat stress);
 - heat injury (hyperthermia with organ damage but no neurological findings); and
 - heat stroke (as for heat injury plus central nervous system dysfunction);
- This SOP is effectively for a type of acute “injury”. It has a single onset factor for undertaking physical activity as specified at the time of onset.

vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia

New – 33 & 34 of 2022

- This new SOP covers a rare syndrome that can develop following Covid-19 vaccination. It involves the formation of blood clots in the vascular system and is often associated with a low platelet count and other typical clinical features. The affected individual must not have been exposed to heparin within the previous 30 days.
- The condition is also commonly known as thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome.

- For both RH and BoP, there is a single onset factor involving receiving an adenovirus vector coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine within a specified time prior to the clinical onset.

hypertension

Revocation – 21 & 22 of 2022

Replaces 63 & 64 of 2013 as amended

- There are no material changes to the definition.
- There have been reductions in the doses required for alcohol and salt consumption.
- There are new factors for:
 - RH and BOP: diabetes mellitus;
 - RH only: dioxin-like PCBs; air pollution; whole body ionising radiation; and taking medroxyprogesterone acetate or megestrol acetate (for cancer or HIV).
- Previously RH only factors have been added to the BOP SOP for: arsenic; and anxiety disorders and PTSD (depression is still RH only).

heart block

Revocation – 23 & 24 of 2022

Replaces 1 & 2 of 2014, as amended

- The definition has been updated, but there is no change to SOP coverage except that congenital and familial forms of heart block are now specifically excluded.
- There has been a reordering and reorganisation of a number of factors with the net changes being:
 - New factors or new list inclusions:
 - for RH and BOP: for rheumatic heart disease; acute rheumatic fever; cardiomyopathy; a non-neoplastic compressive lesion; diphtheria; lacosamide and immune checkpoint inhibitors; graft versus host disease; and ingestion of a plant containing cardiac glycosides;
 - For RH only: pulmonary embolism; hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism (including Graves and Hashimoto disease); Behcet’s disease; fingolimod, clozapine, opioids, paliperidone and risperidone (in the drugs list); hypertension; binge drinking; cannabis; acute pyrethroid poisoning; and hypothermia.
 - The removal of RH and BOP factors for a dose of ionising radiation (the therapeutic radiation factor is retained).
 - The removal of BOP factors or from BOP factor lists for: inflammatory bowel disease; psoriatic arthritis and reactive arthritis (spondyloarthritis); dermatomyositis/polymyositis (inflammatory myopathy); haemochromatosis;

antimony, interferon, dextropropoxyphene and cough linctus containing squill (from the drug list); and being envenomated by a scorpion or snake.

periodontal abscess

Revocation – 25 & 26 of 2022

Replaces 49 & 50 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted and updated and has some additional clinical information, but there is no change to SOP coverage.
- A previous RH and BOP factor for having prior dental pulp disease has been removed.

periodontitis

Revocation – 27 & 28 of 2022

Replaces 47 & 48 of 2013 as amended

- The definition has been updated and reformatted but the SOP coverage is unchanged.
- Timing and duration for the gingivitis factor has changed from “with the two years before” to “for at least the 6 months before”.
- The previous RH only factor for rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis now also covers systemic lupus erythematosus and inflammatory bowel disease. Rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease have also been added as BOP factors.
- The previously RH only factor for osteoporosis is now also in the BOP SOP.
- The nutritional deficiency factor has been reorganised. There is now a factor for severe malnutrition and a separate factor for severe Vitamin C or Vitamin D deficiency, with Vitamin D being added to the BOP SOP (previously RH only).
- A previously RH only factor for smoking cannabis has been removed.

suicide and attempted suicide

Amendment – 35 & 36 of 2022

Amends 65 & 66 of 2016

- The amendment adds gender dysphoria to the list of disorders in the factor for having a disorder of mental health factor (for RH and BOP).

Contact for this bulletin:

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