



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

**Policy Development Branch**

## SOP Bulletin No. 230

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**THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 30 MAY 2022**

<b>New conditions</b>	<b>thoracic outlet syndrome</b>
<b>Revocations &amp; Replacements</b>	<b>seizure malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland malignant neoplasm of the larynx morbid obesity sudden unexplained death</b>
<b>Amendments</b>	<b>diabetes mellitus hypogonadism hypopituitarism sensorineural hearing loss immune thrombocytopaenia acute lymphoblastic leukaemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma</b>

## NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

### thoracic outlet syndrome

**New – 47 & 48 of 2022**

- This new SOP covers a group of disorders that result from the compression of nerves or blood vessels in the space between the collarbone and the first rib (the thoracic outlet). Manifestations are variable, but include pain in the shoulder and neck, and weakness and numbness in the arms.
- SOP factors include: acute injury; repetitive and forceful activities of the arm/shoulder; surgery in the area; and a space occupying lesion in the area.

### seizure

**Revocation – 37 & 38 of 2022**

Replaces 77 & 78 of 2013, as amended

- The SOP has been renamed, from epileptic seizure. The SOP still covers one-off epileptiform seizures, where there is a precipitating cause. Recurrent seizures without an acute precipitating cause are still covered by the separate SOP for epilepsy. There have been some modifications to the listed exclusions, but these have no significant impact on SOP coverage.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for: electrical injury to the brain (but note that seizure from electroconvulsive therapy is excluded in the definition); brain radiotherapy (as specified); septicaemia; amniotic fluid embolism and fat embolism; and cardiac surgery.
- The previous factor for a cerebrovascular accident or subarachnoid haemorrhage now also covers cerebral venous thrombosis and subdural haematoma.
- The previous factors for systemic lupus erythematosus of the CNS and autoimmune disorders of the brain have been combined into an autoimmune encephalitis factor.
- The specified medical conditions factor has been amended, with Parkinson’s disease added and three conditions removed (acute hepatic porphyria; Gaucher disease; and Wilson’s disease).
- A previous factor for “a specified physical stimulus” has been split into separate factors for dehydration, heat stroke and sleep deprivation. Strenuous exercise, previously covered, has been removed as a factor.
- There are changes to the drugs factors with one list (schedule 2) now covering both legal and illicit drugs. Numerous drugs have been added and a smaller number removed.

- The factor covering neurotoxic substances has had multiple additions to the list of substances.

**malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland**

**Revocation – 39 & 40 of 2022**

Replaces 39 & 40 of 2014, as amended

- The definition has been updated to reflect the current WHO classification for thyroid neoplasms. The included conditions list has been revised, with new entries for: Hurthle cell thyroid cancer, mixed medullary and follicular thyroid cancer, and thyroid neoplasms of uncertain malignant potential. (Purely) medullary thyroid carcinoma remains excluded.
- There are new RH only onset factors for: diabetes mellitus; autoimmune diseases; acromegaly; inability to breast feed; and taking clomiphene.
- Hyperthyroidism and thyrotoxicosis have been added to the specified thyroid gland disorders factor.

**malignant neoplasm of the larynx**

**Revocation – 41 & 42 of 2022**

Replaces 61 & 62 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted and updated, but there is no change to SOP coverage.
- In the smoking factors the required amounts of smoking have been reduced (by 40%).
- In the BOP SOP the asbestos fibre inhalation in an open environment factor has had a dose increase, to be consistent with comparable SOPs.
- Previously RH only factors have been added to the BOP SOP for: smoke inhalation from combustion of fossil fuel; human papillomavirus infection; and consuming mate.
- The previously RH and BOP factor for mustard gas is now in the RH SOP only.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for: gastro-oesophageal reflux disease; and opium (inhalation or ingestion).
- There are new RH only factors for: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon inhalation as specified; and welding.

**morbid obesity****Revocation – 43 & 44 of 2022**

Replaces 5 &amp; 6 of 2014 as amended

- The definition is unchanged.
- The existing RH only factor for ceasing to smoking has been extended to BOP.
- Night eating syndrome has been added to the binge eating disorder factor in RH and BOP.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for night shift work and for severe childhood abuse.
- There is a new RH only factor for heavy beer consumption.
- The drugs factor now includes: pregabalin and thiazolidinediones (RH and BOP); and progesterone-only contraceptives (RH only).
- A number of drugs have been removed from the drugs factor (clofibrate, clonidine, guanabenz, guanethidine, nisoldipine, methyldopa, prazosin and terazosin).
- There is now a separate factor for glucocorticosteroids, with a minimum daily dose (which as usual doesn't include lower dose topical or inhaled steroids).
- A previous RH only factor for polycystic ovary syndrome has been removed.
- Worsening factors have been added to the SOP. Previously the SOP had onset factors only (plus an inability to obtain appropriate clinical management factor).

**sudden unexplained death****Revocation – 45 & 46 of 2022**

Replaces 57 &amp; 58 of 2013

- The definition and SOP coverage are unchanged.
- The existing factor for a “direct threat to the person’s life” has been amended/expanded to now cover a “major, stressful event that causes an intense emotional or psychological response”.
- For the physical activity factor “greater than five METs within the one hour before” has been changed to “at least 5 METs within the 24 hours before”.
- The previously RH only factor for hypertension has been added to the BOP SOP.
- Methamphetamine and MDMA have been added to the cocaine factor (now a specified drugs factor) in the RH SOP. The BOP SOP covers cocaine only, as before.

**diabetes mellitus****Amendment – 49 & 50 of 2022**

Amends 48 &amp; 49 of 2020

- The amendments are to the immune checkpoint inhibitor factor, taking an opportunity to update the format (to replace a note with a definition), while fixing a drug name spelling error (ipilimumab).

**hypogonadism****Amendment – 51 & 52 of 2022**

Amends 73 &amp; 74 of 2021

- The amendment corrects a spelling error with the name of one of the listed immune checkpoint inhibitor drugs (ipilimumab).

**hypopituitarism****Amendment – 53 & 54 of 2022**

Amends 11 &amp; 12 of 2019

- The amendments, to the immune checkpoint inhibitor factors and definition, fix a drug name spelling error (ipilimumab), with the opportunity also taken to make a minor update to the wording (to be consistent with other SOPs).

**sensorineural hearing loss****Amendment – 55 & 56 of 2022**

Amends 98 &amp; 99 of 2019

- A minor amendment to the specified list of chemical agents definition changes “*p*-xylene” (para-xylene) to “xylene”.

**immune thrombocytopaenia****Amendment – 57 & 58 of 2022**

Amends 63 &amp; 64 of 2017

- The amendment:
  - Adds COVID 19 (SARS-CoV-2) to the specified infections factor; and

- Adds any COVID 19 vaccine to the specified vaccines factor in the RH SOP, and Astra Zeneca COVID 19 vaccine (only) in the BOP SOP.

**acute lymphoblastic leukaemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma      Amendment – 59 of 2022**

Amends 33 of 2021

- The amendment, to the RH SOP only, adds a definition for “8-hour time-weighted average” (which relates to the benzene factor). This corrects an inadvertent omission.

**Contact for this bulletin:**

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