



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 231

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 25 JULY 2022

New conditions	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	hiatus hernia otitis media somatic symptom disorder sick sinus syndrome sleep apnoea dermatomyositis erectile dysfunction
Amendments	Guillain-Barre syndrome osteoarthritis

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

hiatus hernia

Revocation – 60 & 61 of 2022

Replaces 68 & 69 of 2014

- The definition has been reformatted. Further detail has been added on included and excluded conditions and on the clinical presentation.
- The two previous surgery factors have been combined into a single factor.
- Additional causes of an acute elevation in abdominal pressure have been added to the existing factor that covered lifting heavy weights.
- Being overweight has been added to the existing obesity factor.
- New RH only factors have been added for:
 - chronically elevated intra-abdominal pressure from ascites or peritoneal dialysis;
 - systemic sclerosis; and
 - kyphosis or kyphoscoliosis of the thoracic spine.

otitis media

Revocation – 62 & 63 of 2022

Replaces 51 & 52 of 2014, as amended

- The definition has been reformatted but is otherwise unchanged.
- The previous allergic rhinitis factor now also covers sinusitis.
- The previous nasopharyngeal cancer factor now also covers other mass lesions of the nasopharynx.
- The factor for a dose of ionising radiation has been removed (the factor for therapeutic ionising radiation remains).
- The previous factor for tuberculosis now also covers non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection.
- The previous swimming/diving/other aquatic activities factor has been refined, and is now limited to swimming, diving or water-skiing.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for:
 - having ascariasis or myiasis; and
 - having ANCA-associated vasculitis
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - HIV infection; and
 - taking an immunosuppressive drug for organ or tissue transplantation.
- Several factors that were previously for onset only have been extended to cover onset and worsening.

sick sinus syndrome**Revocation – 66 & 67 of 2022**

Replaces 15 & 16 of 2014

- The definition has been reformatted, with additional details provided on clinical manifestations, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- The myocarditis factor has been reorganised into factors for non-infectious myocarditis; viral myocarditis; and non-viral myocardial infection.
- In the drugs factor there are a number of additions to the list of specified drugs, particularly in the RH SOP.
- Hyperthyroidism and thyrotoxicosis have been added to the existing thyroid disorders factor.
- The previous factor for autoimmune, infiltrative or inflammatory disease has been split into separate factors for specified infiltrative diseases and specified autoimmune diseases.
- The strenuous physical activity factor that was in the RH and BOP SOPs is now in the RH SOP only.
- There is a new factor for heart transplant.
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - snake bite;
 - specified mineral/electrolyte abnormalities (hyperkalaemia, hypocalcaemia, and hypokalaemia); and
 - thoracic stereotactic ablative radiotherapy.
- Previous factors for (i) a non-penetrating blow to the chest and (ii) an electrical injury have been removed.

sleep apnoea**Revocation – 68 & 69 of 2022**

Replaces 41 & 42 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted. A previous requirement for at least 5 apnoea episodes per hour has been replaced by a requirement for diagnosis by a specialist physician. A requirement for significant clinical consequences has been replaced by a note listing the more common clinical consequences.
- Factors for acromegaly and heart failure, that were restricted to sub-types of sleep apnoea, now apply to all types.
- The previously RH and BOP factor covering antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection is now for RH only.

- The central nervous system lesion or disorder factor now has a specified list of conditions and several that were previously covered by the BOP SOP are now RH only (Alzheimer disease, cerebrovascular accident and multiple sclerosis).
- There is a new RH and BOP factor, for obstructive sleep apnoea only, for sleeping in a supine position for the 6 months before onset.

dermatomyositis	Revocation – 70 & 71 of 2022 Replaces 9 & 10 of 2014
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- The definition has been reformatted and additional details added, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- There are multiple changes concerning drugs:
 - an existing factor for taking statins has become a specified drugs factor which now also covers: 5-fluorouracil; capecitabine; D-penicillamine; trastuzumab; and tumour necrosis factor-alpha inhibitors;
 - there is a new separate factor for taking immune checkpoint inhibitors or interferon-alpha; and
 - the existing hydroxyurea factor, previously limited to amyopathic dermatomyositis only, now applies for any dermatomyositis.
- The previous RH only factor for specified viral infections has been removed.

erectile dysfunction	Revocation – 72 & 73 of 2022 Replaces 43 & 44 of 2013, as amended
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- The definition has been reformatted but is otherwise unchanged.
- The existing mental health disorder factor now covers some addition disorders (for RH only - cannabis use disorder; opioid use disorder; and panic disorder: for RH and BOP - schizophrenia and other persistent psychoses).
- A cardiovascular diseases factor has been separated out from the existing specified medical condition factor, with new coverage for atrial fibrillation (RH only) and aortic aneurysm/aortic wall disorders, but also the removal of coverage for ischaemic heart disease.
- A new RH only factor has been added for specified autoimmune diseases. In the BOP SOP, systemic sclerosis, previously in the specified medical conditions factor, is now a stand-alone factor (as the only autoimmune disease covered by that SOP).

- In the specified neurological disorders factor active migraine has been added (RH SOP only), as has neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (RH and BOP).
- A previous factor for renal transplant has been removed.
- The previous surgery to the prostate factor has been expanded to cover surgery to remove (part or all) of the bladder (cystectomy) and surgery for malignant neoplasm of the rectum.
- The dose of ionising radiation factor has been removed (with retention of the factor for therapeutic radiation to the region).
- The specified drugs factors has multiple changes with additions and deletions. Some classes of drugs have been removed, but some specific agents from within those classes have been retained.
- There is a new specified infections factor, covering: chronic hepatitis B; HIV infection; HTLV-1 infection; and penile tuberculosis.
- There is a new RH and BOP factor for herpes zoster of a sacral dermatome.
- New RH only factors have been added for: childhood sexual abuse; and hidradenitis suppurativa.

Guillain-Barre syndrome

Amendment – 74 & 75 of 2022

Amends 23 & 24 of 2018, as amended

- The amendments add COVID 19 vaccines to the factor covering specified vaccines. Any COVID 19 vaccine is now covered in the RH SOP and adenovirus vector COVID 19 vaccines only (e.g. Astra Zeneca vaccine) are covered in the BOP SOP.

osteoarthritis

Amendment – 76 & 77 of 2022

Amends 61 & 62 of 2017, as amended

- The amendment is to the factors, for upper limb osteoarthritis only, that cover performing specified repetitive activities. The factor has been reformatted. Forceful activities involving the affected joint have been added. There has been a dose change from 30 hours/week to 100 hours/month.

Contact for this bulletin:

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