



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

SOP Bulletin No. 232

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2022

New conditions	Nil
Revocations & Replacements	mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemias and small lymphocytic lymphoma* Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease malignant neoplasm of the anus and anal canal epilepsy steatohepatitis
Amendments	allergic contact dermatitis conjunctivitis asthma 'pack year' definitions

* replaces chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemias and small lymphocytic lymphoma

Revocation – 78 & 79 of 2022

Replaces 84 of 2014, as amended, & 85 of 2014

- The name of the SOP has been changed (“chronic lymphoid leukaemia” has become “mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemias”). This name is a better fit with the current World Health Organisation classification for lymphoid neoplasms and for the group of conditions that are covered by the SOP. This name change does not alter the SOP coverage.
- The definition has been reformatted to the current style.
- There are new RH only onset factors for: ionising radiation; ethylene oxide (high level exposure); and 1,3 butadiene (high level exposure).

Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease

Revocation – 80 & 81 of 2022

Replaces 76 & 77 of 2014

- The new SOPs have the usual formatting updates to the definition and factors.
- In the RH SOP the previous neurosurgery factor has been upgraded to now cover any major surgery.
- There is a new RH only factor for percutaneous exposure to blood or tissue from an infected animal (covering a “sharp” injury).

malignant neoplasm of the anus and anal canal

Revocation – 82 & 83 of 2022

Replaces 51 & 52 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted. SOP coverage now includes high-grade anal squamous intra-epithelial lesion (HSIL). This a cancer precursor lesion associated with human papilloma virus infection. It is equivalent to cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 3 (which is covered by the MN of the cervix SOP).
- The factor for infection with human papilloma virus now covers additional specified human papilloma virus types.
- The previously RH only factor covering Crohn disease now also applies for BOP.
- There are new RH only factors for systemic lupus erythematosus and psoriasis.

epilepsy**Revocation – 84 & 85 of 2022**

Replaces 75 & 76 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- 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; diabetes mellitus; and tetramine poisoning (a rat poison).
- There are new RH only factors for: eclampsia and depressive disorder.
- 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 and neuromyelitis optica added and two conditions removed (Gaucher disease; and Wilson's disease).

steatohepatitis**Revocation – 86 & 87 of 2022**

Replaces 79 & 80 of 2013

- The definition has been reformatted. The previous exclusion for hepatitis associated with drugs has been removed and new drugs factors have been included.
- The existing obesity and waist circumference factors have been combined.
- A previously RH and BOP factor for rapid weight loss is now an RH factor only.
- A previous factor for lipodystrophy has been removed.
- There are new RH only onset factors for hyperuricaemia and sleep apnoea.
- There are new RH and BOP drug factors for: Irinotecan (a cancer chemotherapy agent); and a long list of specified drugs. There is also a new general drug factor covering other drugs that can be shown to be causal in an individual case (by meeting the specified criteria).

allergic contact dermatitis	Amendment – 88 & 89 of 2022 Amends 1 & 2 of 2021
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conjunctivitis	Amendment – 90 & 91 of 2022 Amends 76 & 77 of 2020
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asthma	Amendment – 92 & 93 of 2022 Amends 31 & 32 of 2021
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- These conditions can each occur when exposure to a particular allergen triggers a local immune response in someone who has been previously sensitised to that same allergen by an earlier exposure. There are existing SOP factors covering a triggering exposure. The allergic contact dermatitis and conjunctivitis SOPs each have a factor for an exposure to an allergen within 2 weeks before onset. The asthma SOP has the same type of factor, but exposure has to be within 24 hours before onset. A new factor has now been added to each SOP that covers the initial, sensitising exposure to the allergen, at any time before onset. The exposure must have been to the same allergen that later triggers the clinical onset of the condition.

‘pack year’ definitions	Amendment – 94 of 2022
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- This amendment applies to 19 different SOP conditions (37 SOP instruments) that have existing tobacco smoking factors (see list below).
- The changes are to the pack year note and definition, to update the label and content of the definition to the current wording and format, making these consistent across the SOPs. There are no changes to the amount of tobacco smoking required.

Statements of Principles to be amended
ankylosing spondylitis (Nos. 39 and 40 of 2021)

anosmia (Nos. 19 and 20 of 2021)
aortic aneurysm and aortic wall disorders (Nos. 21 & 22 of 2021)
asthma (Nos. 31 & 32 of 2021)
carotid artery disease (Nos. 54 & 55 of 2020)
chronic pancreatitis (Nos. 64 & 65 of 2020)
deep vein thrombosis (Nos. 35 & 36 of 2021)
diabetes mellitus (Nos. 48 & 49 of 2020)
giant cell arteritis (Nos. 11 & 12 of 2021)
inflammatory bowel disease (Nos. 90 & 91 of 2020)
malignant neoplasm of the cervix (Nos. 80 & 81 of 2020)
malignant neoplasm of the kidney (Nos. 41 & 42 of 2021)
non-aneurysmal aortic atherosclerotic disease (Nos. 52 & 53 of 2020)
peripheral artery disease (Nos. 70 & 71 of 2020)
psoriasis (Nos. 13 & 14 of 2021)
pulmonary thromboembolism (Nos. 37 & 38 of 2021)
renal artery atherosclerotic disease (Nos. 56 & 57 of 2020)
retinal vascular occlusion (Nos. 50 & 51 of 2020)
tinnitus (No. 84 of 2020)

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