



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Policy Development Branch

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THE FOLLOWING RMA SOPS TAKE EFFECT ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

New conditions	diaphragmatic hernia portal vein thrombosis
Revocations & Replacements	acute stress disorder posttraumatic stress disorder leptospirosis malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site pleural plaque rotator cuff syndrome allergic rhinitis restless legs syndrome
Amendments	gingivitis

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

diaphragmatic hernia

New – 99 & 100 of 2022

- This new SOP covers herniation of abdominal contents into the chest cavity through the diaphragm (other than through the diaphragmatic opening, which is covered by the SOP for hiatus hernia). This is a rare condition that mostly occurs from severe, acute, blunt or penetrating trauma. It can also be a complication of surgery involving the diaphragm and has been reported in cases with diaphragmatic endometriosis.

portal vein thrombosis

New – 107 & 108 of 2022

- This new SOP covers thrombosis (blood clot formation) in the (hepatic) portal vein. This vein carries blood from the gastrointestinal tract, gallbladder, pancreas and spleen to the liver.
- The SOPs have many causal factors, but as this is an “event”, there are no worsening factors apart from inability to obtain appropriate clinical management (consistent with other vascular event SOPs such as DVT and CVA).
- Causal factors include liver and autoimmune diseases, local and systemic infections, neoplasms and local masses, local trauma and surgery, and specified drugs.

acute stress disorder

Revocation – 95 & 96 of 2022

Replaces 41 & 42 of 2014 as amended

- There are no material changes to this SOP.
- There is a very minor wording change in the definition, reflecting a move to deriving SOP mental health definitions from DSM-5-TR (the updated, text-revised edition of DSM-5, published in March '22).

posttraumatic stress disorder

Revocation – 97 & 98 of 2022

Replaces 82 & 83 of 2014 as amended

- There are no material changes to this SOP.

- There are minor formatting updates, particularly the now standard inclusion of notes to indicate which terms in SOP factors have definitions in the Schedule.

leptospirosis	Revocation – 101 & 102 of 2022 Replaces 94 & 95 of 2014
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- There are no material changes to this SOP.
- The definition has had a formatting update.
- The single onset factor has also been reformatted. It now specifically mentions animal bites (these were previously covered but not explicitly stated).

malignant neoplasm of unknown primary site	Revocation – 103 & 104 of 2022 Replaces 80 & 81 of 2014 as amended
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- The definition has been reformatted, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- The previously RH only alcohol factor has been added to the BOP SOP and the required dose of alcohol has been reduced.
- There are new RH and BOP factors for:
 - human papillomavirus infection of the genitals or anus (for squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary site involving the inguinal nodes only); and
 - Epstein-Barr virus infection (for squamous cell carcinoma of unknown primary site of the head and neck only).
- There are new RH only factors for:
 - diabetes mellitus; and
 - processed meat consumption (for adenocarcinoma of unknown primary site only).

pleural plaque	Revocation – 105 & 106 of 2022 Replaces 45 & 46 of 2014
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- The definition has been updated, with some further detail added in notes.
- There were previously separate factors for asbestos fibre inhalation in closed and in open environments, with the latter requiring 1000 hours of exposure. Those factors have been combined into a single asbestos factor, with no requirement for a minimum number of hours of exposure.

- New RH and BOP factors, with minimum exposure requirements, have been added for exposure to:
 - respirable refractory ceramic fibres (a light weight high performance insulating material used mainly in manufacturing processes); and
 - erionite fibres (natural fibres similar to asbestos found in rocks but not used commercially).

rotator cuff syndrome

Revocation – 109 & 110 of 2022

Replaces 100 & 101 of 2014 as amended

- The definition has been reformatted. SOP coverage is unchanged, except that a requirement for symptoms is now explicit (previously just implied).
- The previously RH only factor for lifting or carrying loads has been added to the BOP SOP. The number of hours required for the factor has been reduced from the previous 1000 hrs RH dose to 200 hrs for RH and 400 hrs for BOP.
- The shoulder laxity factor has been replaced by a factor for joint instability or dislocation/subluxation, to better align with the existing SOPs for those conditions.
- The factor for rheumatoid arthritis has been broadened to include a list of other autoimmune diseases.
- New RH and BOP factors have been added for: surgery to the affect shoulder; infection of the subacromial bursa or subdeltoid bursa of the affected shoulder; diabetes mellitus; hyperlipidaemia; systemic glucocorticoids; and fluoroquinolone antibiotics.
- New RH only factors have been added for smoking; and aromatase inhibitors.

allergic rhinitis

Revocation – 111 & 112 of 2022

Replaces 22 & 23 of 2014

- The definition has been reformatted. It now lists conditions that are included and excluded and has a note on symptoms, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- There is a new factor for an initial, sensitising exposure, any time before onset, to the same allergen that later triggers the clinical onset. This is the same factor that was added recently to SOPs for allergic contact dermatitis, conjunctivitis and asthma.
- A previous RH only onset factor covering obesity and overweight has been removed.

restless legs syndrome**Revocation – 113 & 114 of 2022**

Replaces 20 & 21 of 2014

- The definition has been reformatted and reworded, but SOP coverage is unchanged.
- Previously separate factors for radiculopathy or peripheral neuropathy and spinal cord lesion have been rolled into a neurological disorders factor.
- There are new RH only factors for: Parkinson’s disease; spinal anaesthesia; cerebrovascular accident; and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (within the mental health disorders specified list).
- There are multiple changes to the specified drugs list with additions and deletions.
- A number of previous factors have been removed, as follows:
 - RH only factors for: hormone replacement therapy; panic disorder; and PTSD;
 - BOP factors for: depressive disorders; narcolepsy; and the onset factor for obstructive sleep apnoea (worsening factor retained).

gingivitis**Amendment – 115 & 116 of 2022**

Amends 17 & 18 of 2022

- The amendment corrects an error in the estrogen dose in the “combined oral contraceptive pill as specified” definition, by replacing “milligrams” with “micrograms”. The requirement for a progestogen dose has also been removed.

Contact for this bulletin:[Dr Jon Kelley](#)