



SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

INSTRUMENT NOS. 22 to 27 OF 2017

Statements of Principles (SOPs) Nos. 22 to 27 of 2017 were signed by the Chairperson of the Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) on 24 February 2017.

The Instruments have been lodged and registered with the Federal Register of Legislation, pursuant to section 15G of the *Legislation Act 2003* (Legislation Act). The day of commencement as specified in each of the Statements of Principles is 27 March 2017. In accordance with the Legislation Act, the Office of Parliamentary Counsel must generally deliver a legislative instrument for laying before each House of the Parliament within six sitting days of that House after the instrument is registered with the instrument's registered explanatory statement. The Instruments and the associated Explanatory Statements registered with the Federal Register of Legislation are available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.au>.

Copies of each Instrument, the associated Explanatory Statement and a list of references relating to each Instrument, are available in accordance with the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), on written request from the RMA Secretariat.

The Authority has introduced significant change to the format of the SOPs determined by it under subsections 196B(2) and 196B(3) of the VEA. The changes were introduced to make the relationship between the provisions of the SOPs and the legislative framework for their creation and use clearer and to make them more accessible to users. The 'User Guide to the RMA Statements of Principles' explains the meaning and purpose of each section of the new template. This document is available on the Authority's website <http://www.rma.gov.au>.

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3 March 2017

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Instr. No.	Title	Date of Commencement	ICD-10-AM Codes
REVOCATIONS			
22 & 23/2017	presbyopia	27/03/2017	H52.4
24 & 25/2017	spondylolisthesis & spondylolysis	27/03/2017	spondylolisthesis - M43.1, Q76.21 spondylolysis - M43.0, Q76.22
AMENDMENTS			
26 & 27/2017	suicide & attempted suicide	27/03/2017	N/A

N.B:

The investigation concerning retrolisthesis has resulted in the inclusion of retrolisthesis in the Statements of Principles concerning spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis.

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<p>22 & 23/2017</p>	<p>presbyopia</p>	<p>These Instruments result from an investigation notified by the Authority in the Government Notices Gazette of 12 May 2015 concerning <i>presbyopia</i> in accordance with section 196G of the VEA. The investigation involved an examination of the sound medical-scientific evidence now available to the Authority, including the sound medical-scientific evidence it has previously considered.</p> <p>The contents of these Instruments are in similar terms as the revoked Instruments. Comparing these Instruments and the revoked Instruments, the differences include:</p> <p>For RH & BoP SoPs (Instrument Nos. 22 & 23/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting the latest revised Instrument format, which commenced in 2015; • specifying a day of commencement for the Instrument in section 2; • revising the reference to 'ICD-10-AM code' in subsection 7(4); • new definitions of 'MRCA' and 'VEA' in Schedule 1 - Dictionary; and • revising the definition of 'relevant service' in Schedule 1 - Dictionary. <p>The determining of these Instruments finalises the investigation in relation to <i>presbyopia</i> as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 12 May 2015.</p>
<p>24 & 25/2017</p>	<p>spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis</p>	<p>These Instruments result from an investigation notified by the Authority in the Government Notices Gazette of 6 September 2016 concerning spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis, and in the Government Notices Gazette of 3 May 2016 concerning retrolisthesis, in accordance with section 196G of the VEA. The investigations involved an examination of the sound medical-scientific evidence now available to the Authority, including the sound medical-scientific evidence it has previously considered concerning spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis.</p> <p>The contents of these Instruments are in similar terms as the revoked Instruments. Comparing these Instruments and the revoked Instruments, the differences include:</p> <p>For RH & BoP SoPs (Instrument Nos. 24 & 25/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting the latest revised Instrument format, which commenced in 2015; • specifying a day of commencement for the Instrument in section 2; • revising the definition of 'spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis' in subsection 7(2) to include retrolisthesis; • revising the reference to 'ICD-10-AM code' in subsection 7(4); • revising the factors in subsections 9(3) & 9(13) concerning 'engaging in activities involving repetitive and forceful hyperextension, torsion or rotation against resistance of the spine', for spondylolysis or spondylolytic spondylolisthesis in persons less than 25 years of age only; • revising the factor in subsection 9(4) concerning 'spinal fusion'; • revising the factors in subsections 9(5) & 9(14) concerning 'spinal surgery'; • revising the factor in subsection 9(6) concerning 'spondylosis', for degenerative spondylolisthesis of the lumbar or cervical spine only; • revising the factors in subsections 9(7) & 9(16) concerning 'pathological damage to the affected vertebra'; • revising the factors in subsections 9(8) & 9(17) concerning 'rheumatoid arthritis'; • new factors in subsections 9(9) & 9(18) concerning 'being obese', for degenerative anterolisthesis only; • new factor in subsection 9(10) concerning 'high impact trauma to the spine resulting in an acute fracture of the vertebral arch'; • new factor in subsection 9(11) concerning 'high impact trauma to the spine resulting in an acute fracture of the vertebral arch or dislocation of the involved vertebra', for spondylolisthesis only; • new factor in subsection 9(12) concerning 'trauma to affected region of the spine', for spondylolytic spondylolisthesis only; • new factor in subsection 9(15) concerning 'spondylosis', for degenerative spondylolisthesis of the lumbar or cervical spine only; • new definitions of 'degenerative anterolisthesis', 'degenerative spondylolisthesis', 'MRCA', 'pathological damage to the affected vertebra', 'spinal fusion', 'spinal surgery as specified' and 'VEA' in Schedule 1 - Dictionary; • revising the definitions of 'being obese', 'relevant service' and 'spondylolytic spondylolisthesis' in Schedule 1 - Dictionary; and • deleting the definitions of 'acute traumatic spondylolisthesis or spondylolysis', 'degenerative lumbar spondylolisthesis', 'posterior lumbar spinal fusion' and 'posterior spinal decompression surgery'.

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		The determining of these Instruments finalises the investigation in relation to <i>spondylolisthesis and spondylolysis</i> as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 6 September 2016, and the investigation in relation to <i>retrolisthesis</i> as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 3 May 2016.
26 & 27/2017	suicide and attempted suicide	Amendments These instruments amend Statements of Principles Nos. 65 & 66 of 2016 concerning <i>suicide and attempted suicide</i> by: <i>For RH Amendment SoP (Instrument No. 26/2017)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• replacing the existing factor in subsection 9(3) concerning 'category 1A stressor';• replacing the existing factor in subsection 9(4) concerning 'category 1B stressor';• inserting a factor in subsection 9(11a) concerning 'experiencing a problem with a long-term relationship';• replacing the existing definition of 'category 2 stressor' in Schedule 1 – Dictionary; and• specifying the day of commencement of these amendments. <i>For BoP Amendment SoP (Instrument No. 27/2017)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• replacing the existing factor in subsection 9(2) concerning 'category 1A stressor';• replacing the existing factor in subsection 9(3) concerning 'category 1B stressor';• replacing the existing factor in subsection 9(8) concerning 'category 2 stressor';• inserting a factor in subsection 9(8a) concerning 'experiencing a problem with a long-term relationship';• replacing the existing definition of 'category 2 stressor' in Schedule 1 – Dictionary; and• specifying the day of commencement of these amendments. The determining of these Instruments finalises the investigation in relation to <i>suicide and attempted suicide</i> as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 19 September 2016.