

In March 2000 the Supervisory Panel of the Bowling-Pfizer Trust issued new guidelines for compensation for valve replacement surgery for qualifying patients with Bjork-Shiley Convexo-Concave (BSCC) heart valves.

These monetary benefits include reimbursement of medical expenses not covered by an outside benefit, a lump sum payment of \$38,000 to cover out-of-pocket expenses, and reimbursement for lost income.

- These Guidelines for qualification for benefits are based on the comparison of risk of valve fracture with the risk of reoperation to replace the valve. Those whose risk of valve fracture exceeds the risk of reoperation qualify for monetary benefits under these guidelines.
- These guidelines differ from earlier versions in that they identify younger patients, primarily those less than 55 years of age, as being at greatest risk.
- Risk of fracture is associated with valve size, implant position, some manufacturing characteristics, age, and gender.
- Calculations used to obtain operative mortality were derived from actual experience with BSCC reoperations and from large current studies of similar types of patients undergoing elective explantation of other types of valves.
- Data on the risk of fracture were based on the world wide experience of BSCC patients.
- These risks are statistical averages and are based on patients in optimal health, and thus may not be medically applicable in individual cases.

While these guidelines were developed for administrative purposes to identify patients who would qualify for monetary benefits from reoperation, they also may provide useful medical background for patients and their physicians considering elective BSCC valve replacement.

To determine whether an individual patient qualifies for benefits under these guidelines one should contact the claims administrator for the Bowling-Pfizer Trust at:

Bowling-Pfizer Trustees
Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 3598
Cincinnati, OH 45201-3598