

# TRUSTEES FOR THE BOWLING-PFIZER HEART VALVE SETTLEMENT FUNDS

October 2003

**IN JULY 2003 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.**

The 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 2003 Amended 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 2003 Amended Guidelines as well as the 2000 Amended 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.
- Replacement surgery benefits are also available for surgery to explant a BSCC heart valve due to the risk of strut fracture, if the surgery complies with the 2000 Amended Guidelines.

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 heart 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

Telephone: 800/977-0779 or 513/421-4415  
Fax: 513/421-7696

To follow-up this summary you will be sent a copy of the 2003 Amended Guidelines.