

Coronary stents

A coronary stent is an artificial tube placed in the coronary artery to keep the vessel open.

There are 2 types of stents:

- **Bare metal stents:** a mesh-like metal stent
- **Drug-eluting stents:** a drug-coated metal stent that slowly releases a drug which prevents thickening and scarring of the blood vessel. This reduces the risk of needing another stent to be inserted.
The Fund pays up to **R10 650** per bare-metal stent and up to **R14 950** per drug-eluting stent.

How does the Fund pay for these coronary stents?

The Fund will pay up to a specific Rand value, which we call the reference price, for the stents you need, up to a maximum of 3 stents per beneficiary per year. The Fund's reference price payment will provide full cover, and you will not have to make a co-payment for the stents you need, when your doctor uses stents obtained from one of the Fund's preferred suppliers.

If your doctor does not use a preferred supplier to supply the stents, the Fund will pay up to the reference price, and you will need to pay any shortfall from your own pocket.

The Fund's preferred suppliers of coronary stents:

Drug-eluting stents

- Baroque Medical
- Biotronik
- Meril Cardiology
- Medtronic
- Boston Scientific
- SA Medical Services
- Terumo South Africa

Bare-metal stents

Biotronik is the preferred supplier of bare metal stents. The Fund Rate will apply to all bare metal stents.

Please note that benefit limits, Fund Rules, treatment guidelines and managed care criteria will apply when you need healthcare services and procedures in hospital.