

# Special solidarity fund (BSF)

If you need (expensive) medical care which is not eligible for reimbursement, you can obtain a payment in exceptional circumstances for a severe issue from the Special solidarity fund (BSF).

## What is the Special solidarity fund (BSF)?

The BSF is an institution within the RIZIV (Public institute for sickness and invalidity insurance) which offers an additional safety-net alongside the 'ordinary' cover within mandatory healthcare insurance. It helps prevent situations in which you cannot obtain care for a serious issue because the treatment is expensive and is non-reimbursable. The Fund has a limited annual budget and the conditions for reimbursement are extremely strict.

## When can you call upon the Special Solidarity Fund?

You can call upon the Special Solidarity Fund if you fulfil the following conditions:

- The **disorder** is **rare** and affects vital functions.
- The **costs** of treatment are **high** and **reimbursement is not possible** from the regular healthcare insurance fund.
- The prescribed treatment must have **scientific value and be effective** and be **recognised** by medical bodies.
- The treatment must have **passed the experimental stage**.
- The treatment must be **prescribed** by a **doctor/specialist in treating this disorder** and permission must have been granted for this to be used in Belgium.

### Treatments abroad

Under strict conditions, reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs, and those of the supervisor, may be reimbursed.

### Chronically sick children

The cover may be extended to chronically sick children (cancer, kidney dialysis and life-threatening disorders) who are under the age of 19, as long as the extra medical costs are no higher than €650 each year.

### Handy tip

If you need innovative medicines for a life-threatening and severe disorder and these are not yet reimbursed but there is no therapeutic alternative, your prescribing specialist can call upon the Special Solidarity Fund in the context of an 'unmet medical need'. Deviant rules and procedures apply to this. Ask your healthcare insurance fund for more information.

## What should you do?

The procedure set out below only applies to **provisions in the home country**.

Other procedures apply to care provided abroad and unmet medical needs. The application takes place on the basis of a recommendation or in consultation with the treating doctor.

The patient (or the hospital) provides the application to the **advisory doctor** for your healthcare insurance fund along with the following documents:

- Medical prescription and a detailed medical report drafted by the doctor/specialist;
- Treatment plan (only for rare disorders with a continuous and complex care programme and for chronically sick children).
- Any scientific literature.
- Invoice
  - for outpatient provision in the name of the claimant:
    - for medicines: invoice from pharmacist, not just the till receipt;
    - for materials: invoice from the company.
  - for hospitalised patients: care invoice with
    - for medicines: hospital invoice, invoice from the company and delivery certificate from the hospital pharmacist.
    - for materials: hospital invoice from the company and delivery certificate from the hospital pharmacist.
- If the treatment has not yet started: a detailed specification, drafted by the care provider (to submit an in-principle approval).
- Statement of honour (standard form).

The application must be submitted within 3 years of the corresponding supply.

If this concerns a chronically sick child, an intermediary (e.g. the healthcare insurance fund, the social welfare department in the hospital where the child is being treated, etc.) can submit the application to the Special Solidarity Fund for you.

The Board of medical directors in the RIZIV will decide on the allocation of the payment and determine the amount thereof.

If you disagree with the decision of the BSF, you have 3 months after notification of the refusal to initiate a case with the employment court.

## Need more information?

- From the **treating doctor/specialist**
- At your local **CM-office**
- De Zorglijn (*Care Line*), [www.cm.be/zorglijn](http://www.cm.be/zorglijn)
  - Tel.: 02 204 32 34
    - Monday to Thursday: 8.30 to 12 o'clock and 13 to 17 o'clock;
    - Friday: 8.30 to 12 o'clock and 13 to 16 o'clock;
  - E-mail: [zorglijn@cm.be](mailto:zorglijn@cm.be)

Visit [riziv.fgov.be](http://riziv.fgov.be)