

Eligibility criteria for transcatheter aortic valve implantation or replacement for intermediate to high risk patients

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of a transcatheter aortic valve implantation or replacement (TAVI/TAVR) under a member's policy when **all** the following criteria of intermediate to high risk symptomatic severe calcific aortic stenosis or deteriorated surgical tissue aortic valve are met for that member as reviewed and agreed by the Heart Team of the applicable angiography facility.

1. The patient has symptomatic severe calcific aortic stenosis or deteriorated surgical tissue aortic valve.
2. The patient must have a life expectancy of more than two years.
3. The patient is at intermediate or higher risk which is defined as either:
 - an STS-PROM* score of 4% or more

OR

 - an STS-PROM score of at least 3% and has increased risk (which approximates to an STS- PROM score of 4% or more) due to:
 - age - 75yrs+
 - heart failure
 - lung function - FEV1 <1000ml
 - 5-metre gait speed \geq 6 seconds
 - severe diastolic dysfunction
 - liver disease
 - pulmonary hypertension \geq 60mm Hg
 - frailty
 - previous open-heart surgery
4. The patient is technically suitable for TAVI. The patient must meet 1, 2. and 3. above as agreed by the Heart Team prior to being referred for a pre TAVI CT scan to assess if technically suitable.

* STS- PROM is the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Predicted Risk of Mortality risk calculator.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.