

\$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT CLAIM FORM

I n s t r u c t i o n s

DOW CORNING BREAST IMPLANT CLAIMANTS (CLASS 5)

Use the "Rupture Payment Claim Form" to apply for the \$25,000 Rupture Payment if you have a ruptured Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant. Please read these Instructions and Section 7 in the "Claimant Information Guide" for more information.

1. **WHAT IS THE \$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT?**

You will receive the \$25,000 Rupture Payment if your Dow Corning *silicone gel* breast implant(s) are removed and are ruptured as defined in Question 4 below, and you submit the required proof by the deadline.

2. **WILL THE \$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT BE PAID IN ONE (1) LUMP SUM?**

No. When your rupture claim is approved, you will receive a check for \$20,000. This is known as the Base Payment. The additional \$5,000 payment will be paid in the future after the U.S. District Court determines that all Base Payments and higher priority payments have been or can be paid or that adequate provision is made so that these payments can be made. *(Read Question Q2-7 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information.)*

3. **WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO RECEIVE THE \$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT?**

First, complete and submit the Proof of Manufacturer Form (the blue edge) and medical records or documents that show that you were implanted with a Dow Corning breast implant. *(Read the Proof of Manufacturer Form Instructions.)*

Second, complete and submit the Rupture Payment Claim Form by the deadline and one (1) of the following types of medical records that show that your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) were ruptured:

- A. If your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) were removed before January 1, 1992, then you must submit a contemporaneous operative or pathology report documenting the rupture.
- B. If your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) were removed after January 1, 1992 and on or before the "Effective Date", then you must submit all of the following documents *(Read Question Q9-5 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information about the Effective Date)*:
 1. A contemporaneous operative report; and
 2. If available, a pathology report; and
 3. Complete Question 3 on the Rupture Payment Claim Form that asks whether anyone has your ruptured implants in their possession.

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C. If your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) are removed after the "Effective Date", you must submit all of the following documents (*Read Question Q9-5 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information about the Effective Date.*):

1. A contemporaneous operative report; *and*
2. If available, a contemporaneous pathology report; *and*
3. A statement from the surgeon who removed your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) (or other appropriate professional approved by the Settlement Facility) affirming that, in his or her opinion, the rupture did not occur during or after the implant removal procedure. This statement must describe the results of the inspection and provide a factual basis for the opinion (e.g., in light of silicone granuloma formation on the exterior of the biologic capsule, or findings concerning the nature of the destruction of the elastomer envelope); *and*
4. You must use your best efforts to cause the removed implant(s) to be saved. Complete Question 3 on the Rupture Payment Claim Form that asks whether anyone has your ruptured implants in their possession. If so, provide the name and address of the custodian, person or entity who has the implant(s).

4. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "RUPTURE"?

"Rupture" means the failure of the elastomer envelope surrounding a silicone gel implant to contain the gel, resulting in contact of the gel with the body. The failure must be due to a tear or other opening in the envelope, and the tear or other opening must have occurred after implantation and before explantation. There is no rupture if the gel's contact with the body is solely the result of gel bleed.

5. CAN I RECEIVE THE \$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT IF THE IMPLANT(S) THAT RUPTURED CONTAINED ONLY SALINE?

No. You cannot receive the Rupture Payment if your ruptured implant(s) contained only saline.

6. WHAT IS THE "MEDICALLY CONTRAINDICATED EXCEPTION" (QUESTION 2B ON THE RUPTURE PAYMENT CLAIM FORM)?

If you have a serious, chronic medical condition that your doctor says prevents you from undergoing surgery for the removal of your ruptured Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s), you may still qualify for the Rupture Payment under the "Medically Contraindicated Exception." *However*, this is a very narrow exception that requires extensive medical records and a written statement from your doctor along with an MRI that documents that your Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s) are ruptured. (*Read Section 7 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information. Read this Section carefully before you submit your request to the Settlement Facility.*)

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7. WHAT IS THE "INDIVIDUAL REVIEW PROCESS" FOR THE \$25,000 RUPTURE PAYMENT?

The Individual Review Process -- or IRP -- is an additional way to qualify for the \$25,000 Rupture Payment. To be eligible, you must first submit your Rupture Payment Claim Form and medical records that show you have a ruptured Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant. If your medical records do not support a claim for rupture as defined in Question 4 above, then you may submit the following documents to qualify for the \$25,000 Rupture Payment:

- A. Medical documents, created before the implant removal surgery or within a reasonable time after the implant removal surgery for your Dow Corning single or double-lumen silicone gel breast implant(s), demonstrating visual confirmation of a breach in the elastomer envelope found upon or prior to removal of the Dow Corning silicone gel breast implant(s); or
- B. Medical documents demonstrating migration along tissue planes distant from the site of your Dow Corning breast implant(s) of a substantial mass of material confirmed by biopsy to be silicone from a ruptured Dow Corning single or double-lumen silicone gel breast implant.

Your medical documents in the Individual Review Process will be reviewed by Dow Corning (with all identifying information such as your name removed). If Dow Corning accepts the medical documents as proof of a rupture, then you will receive the \$25,000 Rupture Payment. *(Read Section 7 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information.)*

8. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MY RUPTURE PAYMENT CLAIM FORM AND MEDICAL RECORDS?

You must submit a Rupture Payment Claim Form and medical records on or before two (2) years after the "Effective Date." *(Read Question Q9-5 in the Claimant Information Guide for more information about the Effective Date.)* Before a claim can be paid, you must also submit the Proof of Manufacturer Form (the blue edge) and acceptable proof that the ruptured silicone gel breast implant(s) that are removed were made by Dow Corning. If your Dow Corning breast implant(s) were removed within ninety (90) days immediately before the second (2nd) anniversary of the Effective Date, then you have an additional thirty (30) days after the second (2nd) anniversary of the Effective Date to submit the Rupture Payment Claim Form and medical records.

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9. WHAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM OR RECEIVE A “DEFICIENCY NOTICE” ON MY RUPTURE CLAIM? IS THERE A DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM?

If there is a problem with either your Rupture Payment Claim Form or medical records, you will receive a letter from the Settlement Facility informing you of the problem. You will have six (6) months from the date of that letter to correct the problem. If you do not correct the problem within this six (6) month period, then your rupture claim will be rejected permanently. Because of this short time to correct problems, it is important that you review your medical records carefully before you send them in for review.

If your medical records meet the proof requirements described in Question 3 above, then you will receive a letter from the Settlement Facility informing you that your claim is approved. Approved claims will be paid after the Effective Date.

10. WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED HELP?

The Claims Assistance Program is available to answer questions about how to complete the forms in your Claims Package including the Rupture Payment Claim Form. They can also assist you with information on how to obtain the medical records and documents to support your claim. There is no charge to you for this service.

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