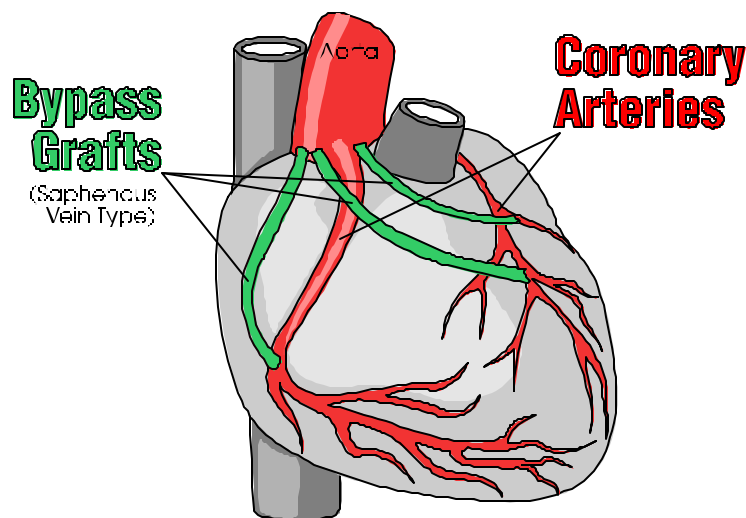




Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)

In the United States, coronary artery bypass is a common procedure to treat coronary artery disease at all ages. There are two main types of bypasses. The *saphenous vein* can be removed from the leg, reversed in direction, and then attached into the aorta and coronary artery beyond the blockage. The second type involves freeing one end of the *internal mammary artery* from the chest wall and attaching it to the coronary artery beyond the blockage. Often when more than one vessel is being bypassed, both types of bypasses are used (with the internal mammary bypassing the left anterior descending coronary artery).



As many as 6 separate grafts may be constructed to the side of the aorta. Coronary arteries less than 1mm in diameter by angiogram measurement are not suitable for bypass grafting. Indications for CABG are:

- 1) intractable angina not responding to medical therapy
- 2) left main artery disease with greater than 50% stenosis
- 3) silent ischemia noted on testing with significant 3-vessel disease
- 4) 3-vessel disease with impaired left ventricular function (ejection fraction less than 50%)
- 5) 2 or 3-vessel disease if one of the vessels involved is the proximal LAD

(continued on reverse)

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LV function. Most frequent complications from CABG surgery include:

- atrial fibrillation
- post-pericardiotomy syndrome
- peri-operative myocardial infarction
- ventricular arrhythmias
- excessive bleeding
- hepatitis (B or C)
- post-perfusion syndrome
- stroke
- permanent pacemaker
- congestive heart failure, aortic dissection
- pulmonary embolism
- depression

Graft closures remain a limiting factor to the success of CABG. Graft closures immediately after surgery are due to acute thrombosis (clot formation). Closures a few months to years later are due to fibrosis or advancing atherosclerosis. The internal mammary artery graft is more likely to remain open than saphenous vein grafts.

The rating for a history of coronary artery bypass will depend primarily upon the age of the applicant and severity of underlying coronary artery disease. Negative factors include complications from the surgery, recurrent angina, abnormal follow-up treadmill, multiple cardiac risk factors present, and left ventricular dysfunction.

To get an idea of how a client with a history of CABG would be viewed in the underwriting process, please feel free to use this *Ask "Rx" pert underwriter* for an informal quote.

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CABG - Ask "Rx" perts (ask our experts)

Producer _____ Phone _____ FAX _____
Client _____ Age/DOB _____ Sex _____

If your client has had coronary bypass surgery, please answer the following:

- ① Please list date(s) of the bypass surgery: _____
- ② How vessels were bypassed: _____
- ③ Has your client had any of the following?
 - heart attack _____ (date)
 - coronary angioplasty (PTCA) _____ (date)
 - heart failure _____ (date)
 - valve surgery _____ (date)
- ④ Is your client on any medications (including aspirin)?
 - yes, please give details _____
 - no
- ⑤ Has a follow-up stress (exercise) ECG been completed since the CABG?
 - yes - normal _____ (date)
 - yes - abnormal _____ (date)
 - no
- ⑥ Has your client had any chest discomfort since the bypass surgery?
 - yes, please give details _____
 - no
- ⑦ Please check if your client has had any of the following:
 - abnormal lipid levels diabetes
 - overweight elevated homocysteine
 - high blood pressure peripheral vascular disease
 - irregular heart beats
 - cerebrovascular or carotid disease
- ⑧ Has your client smoked cigarettes in the last 12 months?
 - yes
 - no
- ⑨ Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: cancer, etc.)?
 - yes, please give details _____
 - no

Please submit a copy of the angiogram report and any recent stress tests.

After reading the *Rx for Success* on CABG, please feel free to use this *Ask "Rx" pert underwriter* for an informal quote.

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