

St. Jude reimburses patients for travel, bills in Riata recall snafu | MassDevice.com On Call

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Patients affected by St. Jude's recall of Riata heart wires find who find themselves themselves under pressure to pay for replacement surgeries and other related healthcare expenses can reach out to St. Jude for potential reimbursement.



MASDEVICE ON CALL — Patients implanted with [St. Jude Medical's](#) [1] (NYSE:[STJ](#) [2]) Riata defibrillator leads, which the medical device company recalled late last year, are finding themselves on the hook for hefty medical bills for replacing the defective wires.

St. Jude covers certain costs, as long as patients choose another St. Jude device to replace the defunct Riata leads, and insurance and Medicare provide a big chunk of the procedure, but some patients are finding themselves with thousands of dollars in travel and other expenses, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Minneapolis-based medical device giant has a program for helping patients with some expenses beyond the terms of the warranty, but those services may be underused by physicians who aren't aware they exist.

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[1] <http://www.massdevice.com/company/st-jude-medical>

[2] <http://www.google.com/finance?q=stj>