

Panniculectomy/Abdominoplasty

A panniculectomy is a surgical procedure to remove the panniculus or excess skin and fat that forms an abdominal apron. It includes the removal of excessive skin, subcutaneous tissue and fat.

Abdominoplasty is a surgical procedure such as panniculectomy that includes tightening of the abdominal muscles.

Coverage and Payment Policy

This service requires prior authorization.

Approval criteria:

1. Beneficiary is age 18 or older.
2. The beneficiary has had substantial weight loss that is stable for at least 6 months.
3. The panniculus causes a chronic and persistent skin condition that has not responded to 6 months or more of conventional treatment.
4. The panniculus hangs to or below the level of the symphysis pubis.
5. The panniculus either:
 - a. Significantly interferes with mobility or activities of daily living; or
 - b. Contributes substantially to a recurrent or extensive incisional hernia or ventral hernia.


The following clinical information must be submitted by the surgeon involved in the beneficiary's care:

1. Documentation of a comprehensive history and physical examination which includes the following:
 - a. Member's age and BMI;
 - b. Clinical history pertinent to the diagnosis including any interference with mobility or activities of daily living;
 - c. Previous and current use of prescribed and over-the-counter medications used specifically for dermatologic problems associated with the panniculus;
 - d. Risk factors and co-morbid conditions; and
 - e. Previous relevant hospitalizations and surgeries.
2. The panniculectomy may occur simultaneously with biopsy proven cancer to optimize surgical field exposure.

Non-coverage:

1. Procedure is for cosmetic purposes.
2. Panniculectomy is requested to be done simultaneously with gastric bypass surgery.
3. The member has difficulty in fitting clothes.
4. When panniculectomy is to be performed to relieve back pain.

6/16

Approved by:  Associate Medical Director
Jerry Fingerut, MD

Date: 6/10/2016

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____