



Abdominoplasty & Panniculectomy

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Purpose:

To provide Abdominoplasty and Panniculectomy guidelines for the Medical Department staff to reference when making determinations.

Coverage Guidelines

- Panniculectomy could be considered medically indicated if all of the following criteria are met and reviewed by a Medical Director:
 - Panniculus hangs below the level of the pubis as evidenced by photo documentation;
 - There is medical record documentation that the panniculus causes chronic intertrigo/dermatitis or ulcerations that consistently recur over three (3) months while being treated with appropriate medical therapy, or remains refractory to appropriate medical therapy over a period of three (3) months;
 - If criteria are met, covered procedure codes include 15830, 49560, 49561, 49565, 49566, 49568.

Exclusion Criteria

- Panniculectomy is considered cosmetic when performed for reasons to “minimize the risk” of hernia formation or recurrence:
 - There is no adequate evidence that pannus contributes to hernia formation. The primary cause of hernia formation is an abdominal wall defect or weakness, not a pulling effect from a large or redundant pannus.
- Repair of a Diastasis Recti is not considered to be medically necessary. According to medical literature, it is not a true hernia and is of no clinical significance.
- Abdominoplasty and Suction Lipectomy are considered cosmetic.
- Non-covered procedure codes include 15847 and 15877.



Abdominoplasty & Panniculectomy

References:

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5. Aly AS, Cram AE, Chao M, et al. Belt lipectomy for circumferential truncal excess: The University of Iowa experience. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2003;111(1):398-413.
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Disclaimer Information:

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Coverage Issues Guidelines and Medical Technology Assessment Recommendations are developed for selected therapeutic or diagnostic services found to be safe, but proven effective in a limited, defined population of patients or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in the AvMed service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of Members. This guideline may be updated and therefore is subject to change.