

Abdominoplasty/Panniculectomy

Last Review Date: August 9, 2024

Number: MG.MM.SU.09iC

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Related Medical Guideline

[Cosmetic Surgery and Reconstructive Procedures](#)

Requests will be considered using Milliman Clinical Care Guidelines (MCGs). Guidelines are developed using publications that have been assessed in terms of quality, utility, and relevance. Preference is given to publications that:

- Are designed with rigorous scientific methodology
- Are published in higher-quality journals (e.g., journals that are read and cited most often within their field)
- Address an aspect of specific importance to the guideline in question (admission criteria, length of stay)
- Represent an update or contain new data or information not reflected in the current guideline

MCG Clinical Criteria

- A-0497 — Abdominoplasty
- A-0498 — Panniculectomy
- WS-GRG — Wound and Skin Management GRG

Note: In the case that more than one procedure is to be performed, coverage will only be applicable to the reconstructive procedure; the cost of the cosmetic procedure (i.e., abdominoplasty in association with panniculectomy) will be the responsibility of the member (as per group contract, individual contract or policy). Additionally, photographic evidence **must** accompany written documentation substantiating medical necessity as follows:

- Panniculus hangs below level of pubis (below the distal end of the symphysis pubis), documented by high-quality color frontal-view and side-view photographs
- Documentation of high-quality color frontal-view and side-view photographs with pannus lifted to document presence of intertrigo (as applicable)

Revision History

Aug. 11, 2023	Added photo documentation criteria
Aug. 13, 2021	Updated policy with MCG specific guidelines and retained note pertaining to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Differentiation between cosmetic and reconstructive procedures when multiple procedures are performed▪ Photo documentation
Jul. 12, 2019	Reinstated policy
Aug. 17, 2018	Retired for MCG
Mar. 11, 2016	Added that documentation should delineate reason for interference of activities of daily living