

## Abdominoplasty/Panniculectomy

Last Review Date: August 17, 2026

Number: MG.MM.SU.09j

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### Related Medical Guideline

[Cosmetic Surgery and Reconstructive Procedures](#)

### Guideline

Abdominoplasty may be indicated when **all** the following are present:

- Abdominal wall laxity or skin excess interferes with activities of daily living
- Member has complications from a panniculus (i.e., chronic or recurrent intertrigo, other skin infection, ulceration, or skin irritation that has been persistent despite nonsurgical treatment)
- Weight has reached stable plateau, and  $\geq 1$  of the following:
  - Adherence to multidisciplinary nonsurgical program of weight maintenance
  - $\geq 1$  year has elapsed following bariatric surgery

Panniculectomy may be indicated when **all** the following are present:

- Member has complications from panniculus (e.g., chronic or recurrent intertrigo, other skin infection, ulceration, or skin irritation that has been persistent despite nonsurgical treatment).
- Panniculus interferes with activities of daily living
- Weight has reached stable plateau, and  $\geq 1$  of the following:
  - Adherence to multidisciplinary nonsurgical program of weight maintenance
  - $\geq 1$  year has elapsed following bariatric surgery

### Note pertaining to abdominoplasty and panniculectomy:

- 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).
- Photographic evidence must accompany all requests with written documentation substantiating medical necessity. The photo documentation must be of high-quality color with frontal-view and side-view photographs, with pannus lifted to document presence of intertrigo (as applicable)

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## Revision History

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 17, 2027  | Added that photographic evidence must accompany all requests (to clarify that this is regardless of whether a single procedure or multiple procedures is performed)                                                                                                |
| 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"><li>▪ Differentiation between cosmetic and reconstructive procedures when multiple procedures are performed</li><li>▪ Photo documentation</li></ul> |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                    |