



MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICY

SERVICE: Panniculectomy - Removal of Redundant Tissue

Policy Number: 083

Effective Date: 08/01/2020

Last Review: 06/25/2020

Next Review Date: 06/25/2021

Important note:

Unless otherwise indicated, this policy will apply to all lines of business.

Even though this policy may indicate that a particular service or supply may be considered medically necessary and thus covered, this conclusion is not based upon the terms of your particular benefit plan. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage and exclusions. Not all benefits that are determined to be medically necessary will be covered benefits under the terms of your benefit plan. You need to consult the Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or Summary Plan Description (SPD) to determine if there are any exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and your plan of benefits, the provisions of your benefits plan will govern. However, applicable state mandates will take precedence with respect to fully insured plans and self-funded non-ERISA (e.g., government, school boards, church) plans. Unless otherwise specifically excluded, Federal mandates will apply to all plans. With respect to Medicare-linked plan members, this policy will apply unless there are Medicare policies that provide differing coverage rules, in which case Medicare coverage rules supersede guidelines in this policy. Medicare-linked plan policies will only apply to benefits paid for under Medicare rules, and not to any other health benefit plan benefits. CMS's Coverage Issues Manual can be found on the CMS website. Similarly, for Medicaid-linked plans, the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM) supersedes coverage guidelines in this policy where applicable.

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PRIOR AUTHORIZATION: Required.

POLICY: Please review the plan's EOC (Evidence of Coverage) or Summary Plan Description (SPD) for coverage details.

For Medicare plans, please refer to appropriate Medicare LCD (Local Coverage Determination). If there is no applicable LCD, use the criteria set forth below.

For Medicaid plans, please confirm coverage as outlined in the Texas Medicaid TMPPM.

SWHP covers medically necessary panniculectomy and/or removal of redundant skin.

The medical necessity of a panniculectomy will be determined using Interqual[®], a recognized review tool from Change Healthcare. The following statement is a supplement to the Interqual[®] review as indicated:

Panniculectomy is **NOT** covered when performed as an adjunct to other medically necessary procedures (e.g., hysterectomy, ventral/incisional hernia repair) unless the criteria for panniculectomy are independently met.

OVERVIEW: Patients who lose large amounts of weight can develop redundant tissue following significant weight loss. There is a risk of complications when this tissue reaches a certain size.

MANDATES: There are no mandated benefits or regulatory requirements for coverage.

SUPPORTING DATA: Definitions:

Abdominoplasty: Surgical procedure which includes the excision of skin and subcutaneous fat in the abdomen, and a range of secondary nonfunctional procedures (e.g., transposition of the umbilicus, repair of lax abdominal muscles and suction assisted liposuction). The procedure is also referred to as a "tummy tuck" because it produces a flatter, firmer, tighter stomach and thin waist and provides an overall improvement in the person's shape and figure. Panniculectomy and



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abdominoplasty are often performed together to achieve the best cosmetic result, but abdominoplasty is an add-on procedure that is not covered.

Diastasis Recti Abdominis Repair: Repair of the separation of the left and right side of the rectus abdominis muscle that occurs primarily in pregnant women and newborns, but may also occur in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (following abdominal surgery) or obesity.

Intertrigo: An inflammation of the body folds, most often due to chafing together of warm, moist skin, and usually located in the inner thighs, armpits, and underside of the breasts or belly. Most common in those who are overweight or diabetic, intertrigo is red and raw looking, and may itch, ooze or be sore; infection with bacteria or yeast may develop in the broken skin.

Lipectomy: A surgical technique that is used to cut and remove unwanted fat deposits from specific areas of the body. It is not a substitute for weight reduction, but is a method of removing localized fat that does not respond to dieting and exercise. A lipectomy may be done for cosmetic reasons or to treat functional impairment.

Panniculectomy: Surgical excision of redundant (excess) hanging abdominal skin and fat (panniculus), not including muscle plication or neoumbilicoplasty as in an abdominoplasty.

Panniculitis: Intertriginous rashes, ulcerations, and/or infections that develop in the abdominopelvic fold.

Physical Functional Impairment: A condition in which the normal or proper action of a body part is damaged, and affects the ability to participate in activities of daily living.

Physical functional impairments include, but are not limited to, problems with ambulation, communication, respiration, swallowing, vision, or skin integrity.

A physical functional impairment may impact an individual's emotional well-being or mental health, but such impact is not considered in determining whether or not a physical functional impairment exists.

CODES:

Important note:

CODES: Due to the wide range of applicable diagnosis codes and potential changes to codes, an inclusive list may not be presented, but the following codes may apply. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed, and patient must meet the criteria set forth in the policy language.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| CPT Codes: | 15830, 15847, 15877, 49560, 49561, 49565, 49566, 49568, 49652, 49653, 49654, 49655, 49656, 49657 |
| CPT Not Covered: | |
| HCPCS Codes: | |
| ICD10 codes: | E65 - Localized adiposity/fat pad |
| ICD10 Not covered: | E66.01 - E66.9 Overweight/obesity M62.00 Muscle separation, unspecified site Q79.59 Congenital anomalies of abdominal wall Z41.1, Z41.8 and Z42.8 |

CMS: LDC L35090 rev 04/14/2017. (See LCD for details)

POLICY HISTORY:



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| Status | Date | Action |
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| New | 6/1/2010 | New policy |
| Reviewed | 12/7/2011 | Reviewed. |
| Reviewed | 11/15/2012 | Reviewed. |
| Reviewed | 10/24/2013 | ICD10 codes added |
| Reviewed | 08/21/2014 | No changes. |
| Reviewed | 09/24/2015 | No changes |
| Reviewed | 09/29/2016 | LCD added |
| Reviewed | 09/26/2017 | No changes made |
| Reviewed | 07/10/2018 | Changed primary review to Interqual® |
| Reviewed | 09/17/2019 | No changes. |
| Updated | 06/25/2020 | Updated to allow coverage for all LOBs |

REFERENCES:

The following scientific references were utilized in the formulation of this medical policy. SWHP will continue to review clinical evidence related to this policy and may modify it at a later date based upon the evolution of the published clinical evidence. Should additional scientific studies become available and they are not included in the list, please forward the reference(s) to SWHP so the information can be reviewed by the Medical Coverage Policy Committee (MCPC) and the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) to determine if a modification of the policy is in order.

1. American Society of Plastic Surgeons Recommended Insurance Coverage Criteria for Third Party Payers- Surgical Treatment of Skin Redundancy for Obese and Massive Weight Loss Patients
2. Ramirez OM. Abdominoplasty and abdominal wall rehabilitation: A comprehensive approach. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2000;105(1):425-435.
3. Elbaz JS, Flageul G, Olivier-Masveyraud F. 'Classical' abdominoplasty. *Ann Chir Plast Esthet.* 1999;44(4):443-461.
4. Vastine VL, Morgan RF, Williams GS, et al. Wound complications of abdominoplasty in obese patients. *Ann Plast Surg.* 1999;42(1):34-39.
5. Cardenas-Camarena L, Gonzalez LE. Large-volume liposuction and extensive abdominoplasty: A feasible alternative for improving body shape. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 1998;102(5):1698-1707.
6. 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.
7. Golladay ES. Abdominal hernias. *eMedicine General Surgery Topic 2703.* Omaha, NE: eMedicine.com; updated July 9, 2002. Available at: <http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic2703.htm> Accessed April 22, 2004.
8. State of Minnesota, Health Technology Advisory Committee. Tumescant liposuction. *Technology Assessment.* St. Paul, MN: HTAC; 2002.
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12. Graf R, de Araujo LR, Rippel R, et al. Lipoabdominoplasty: Liposuction with reduced undermining and traditional abdominal skin flap resection. *Aesthetic Plast Surg.* 2006;30(1):1-8.



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14. Heller JB, Teng E, Knoll BI, Persing J. Outcome analysis of combined lipoabdominoplasty versus conventional abdominoplasty. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2008;121(5):1821-1829.
15. Halbesma GJ, van der Lei B. The reverse abdominoplasty: A report of seven cases and a review of English-language literature. *Ann Plast Surg.* 2008;61(2):133-137.
16. A. Graf, K. Yang, K. Klement, N. Kim, H. Matloub. Abdominal suspension during massive panniculectomy: A novel technique and review of the literature. *JPRAS Open.* June 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpra.2016.04.001>. Accessed 18, September 2016.
17. Vincenzo Colabianchi, Giancarlo de Bernardinis, Matteo Giovannini, and Marika Langella, Panniculectomy Combined with Bariatric Surgery by Laparotomy: An Analysis of 325 Cases, *Surgery Research and Practice*, vol. 2015, Article ID 193670, 10 pages, 2015. doi:10.1155/2015/193670. Accessed 18 September 2017