

Medical Policy: Abdominoplasty/Panniculectomy (Commercial)



POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW DATE	APPROVED BY
MG.MM.SU.09i	08/11/2023	MPC (Medical Policy Committee)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS MEDICAL POLICY:

Property of ConnectiCare, Inc. All rights reserved. The treating physician or primary care provider must submit to ConnectiCare, Inc. the clinical evidence that the patient meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, ConnectiCare will not be able to properly review the request for prior authorization. This clinical policy is not intended to pre-empt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. The clinical review criteria expressed below reflects how ConnectiCare determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. ConnectiCare established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information (including clinical outcome studies in the peer-reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors). ConnectiCare, Inc. expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes, and welcomes further relevant information. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and/or paid for by ConnectiCare, as some plans exclude coverage for services or supplies that ConnectiCare considers medically necessary. If there is a discrepancy between this guideline and a member's benefits plan, the benefits plan will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of the State of CT and/or the Federal Government. Coverage may also differ for our Medicare members based on any applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage statements including National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and/or Local Medical Review Policies(LMRP). All coding and web site links are accurate at time of publication.

Related Medical Guideline

[Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery 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:

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

On an annual basis, each guideline undergoes external review by clinically active experts (e.g., board-certified specialist physicians without stated financial conflicts of interest) to confirm the clinical appropriateness, accuracy, validity, and applicability of each guideline.

[Click Here: ConnectiCare-MCG Clinical Criteria](#)

[MCG-A-0497 — Abdominoplasty](#)

[MCG-A-0498 — Panniculectomy](#)

[PG-WS-GRG — Wound and Skin Management GRG](#)

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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

DATE	REVISION
08/11/2023	Added photo documentation criteria
08/2021	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
06/2021	Updated policy with MCG specific guidelines
05/2021	Adopted MCG Clinical Care Guidelines Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template
01/11/06, 11/07/07, 10/29/08, 10/14/09, 11/10/10, 11/09/11, 12/05/12, 12/31/13, 12/03/14, 12/09/15, 5/2019	