

Origination Date: 5/02	Revision Date(s): 2/04, 12/04, 12/05, 12/06, 12/07, 1/09
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

Csaba Mera MD.

Approved: Csaba Mera, MD Date: 01/09/09

Description:

Abdominoplasty, often referred to as a tummy tuck, is a surgical procedure for a large, pendulous or protruding abdomen, which tightens lax anterior abdominal wall muscles and removes excess abdominal skin and fat. Traditional abdominoplasty can be performed as an open or endoscopic procedure.

Panniculectomy, a procedure closely related to abdominoplasty, is the surgical excision of an abdominal apron of skin and subcutaneous fat located in the lower abdominal area.

Criteria:

Abdominoplasty /Panniculectomy will be covered to plan limitations when **all** of the following criteria are met:

1. The panniculus hangs to or below the level of the pubic symphysis; **AND**
2. The panniculus causes chronic intertrigo that consistently recurs and has not responded to medical treatment (i.e. topical antifungals, topical and/or systemic corticosteroids, and/or local or systemic antibiotics); **AND**
3. The pannus interferes with activities of daily living

Limitations:

1. If the procedure is being performed following significant weight loss, in addition to meeting the above criteria, there should be evidence that the patient has maintained a stable weight for at least 6 months.
2. ODS does not cover Abdominoplasty/Panniculectomy for the treatment of back pain. This is considered to be investigational.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

1. Clinical records from Primary Care Physician or specialist for the past 6 months
2. Pre-operative photographs

References:

- American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (ASPRS). Abdominoplasty: recommended criteria for third-party payers. Position paper. June 1994
- American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (ASPRS). Treatment of Skin Redundancy Following Massive Weight Loss. Position Paper. September 2005.
- Physician Advisors