

Abdominoplasty/ Panniculectomy

These services may or may not be covered by all HealthPartners plans. Please see your plan documents for your own coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and your plan documents, your plan will be used to determine your coverage.

Administrative Process

Requires prior approval.

Coverage

Generally not covered for cosmetic reasons to improve the appearance of the patient, but may be covered subject to the criteria listed below:

Indications that are covered

1. **Diastasis rectus repair:** To correct the separation of the rectus muscles of the abdominal wall (diastasis rectus) when the condition is severe as measured by the following:
 - A. Persistent abdominal tenderness
 - B. Clinical palpation of abdominal viscera which jeopardizes function of the abdominal wall. This may include, but is not limited to, its role in posture, trunk stability, respiration and trunk flexion, rotation and side bending.
2. **Panniculectomy** requirements are :
 - A. The panniculus hangs below the level of the pubis, and **all** of the following:
 - B. Chronic and recurrent skin conditions (cellulites, skin necrosis, open areas) have failed to respond to (or be managed by) conservative medical treatment for 6 months of medically supervised therapy; and
 - C. Physician visit notes are submitted indicating the nature of the skin condition, treatments attempted and the response to treatment as described above in "B."; and
 - D. Front and lateral photographs demonstrating the size of the pannus and skin condition must be submitted.
 - E. Panniculectomy requests after gastric bypass surgery must meet criteria A through D. In addition the member must have attained adequate weight loss and have maintained that weight loss for at least 6 months.

Indications that are not covered

1. Abdominoplasty
2. Any of these procedures when performed for cosmetic reasons.

Definitions

Abdominoplasty is surgery performed to remove excessive fat and skin from the abdomen. It is usually performed in order to improve the appearance of the patient.

Panniculectomy is the surgical excision of the abdominal apron of superficial fat, and may also be referred to as abdominoplasty.

Diastasis recti abdominis is the separation of the rectus muscles of the abdominal wall, which sometimes results in herniation of the abdominal viscera and may occur during pregnancy.

Products

This information is for most, but not all, HealthPartners plans. Please read your plan documents to see if your plan has limits or will not cover some items. If there is a difference between this general information and your plan documents, your plan will be used to determine your coverage. This information is not the same for Medicare. If you have questions or would like help, please call Member Services at 952-883-7979 or 1-800-233-9645.

Number: A016-06; Approved Medical Director Committee; Approved 10/01/95; Revised 5/25/05 Annual Review 5/25/05, 7/1/06, 8/1/07, 7/1/08, 6/1/09, 4/1/10.