



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan - Hawaii

Panniculectomy Surgery Guideline

Panniculectomy is defined as surgical removal of excessive fat and skin from the abdomen/resection of the overhanging apron of redundant skin and fat from the lower abdomen.

Clinical Review

Covered:

Panniculectomy is considered medically necessary when the following criteria have been met:

- Relevant history and physical findings from the primary care physician or other physician requesting the plastic surgery consultation must establish medical necessity.
- Uncontrolled intertriginous dermatitis (inflammatory condition of skin folds), skin necrosis (death of body tissue), or recurrent infections and/or abscesses requiring repeated courses of antibiotics or surgical intervention.
- Functional problems that include difficulty with walking or transfers. If a patient has a pannus that extends more than half the distance from the perineum to the patella (kneecap), they will be considered to have a functional problem.
- No less than 18 months post-bariatric surgery with stable weight for a minimum of 6 months, or stable weight for a minimum of 6 months when loss of weight is not a result of bariatric surgery.
- Appropriate surgical candidates should be in good health, have no medical contraindications for surgery, have a stable weight, and have a BMI no greater than 35.

Not Covered:

Panniculectomy is not covered for:

- Uncomplicated superficial fungal infections which respond to conservative skin care with topical medications are not an indication for panniculectomy. The need for such conservative care is not an indication for panniculectomy.
- Repairing abdominal wall laxity (bulge) or diastasis recti (abdominal separation).
- Improving appearance.
- Treatment of neck or back pain.

Approval

Dates

Chief Approval: Scott Nishikawa, MD
Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery

10/2022, 12/2023

References

Medicare Coverage Database (MCD) Local Coverage Determination (LCD), Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery, L33428, for services performed on or after 07/29/2021