



2009

## PANNICULECTOMY/ABDOMINOPLASTY CRITERIA (MEDICARE)

Panniculectomy/Abdominalplast panniculectomy, with or without abdominoplasty and/or suction-assisted lipectomy, is medically appropriate when:

- Patients who have undergone substantial weight loss (e.g., bariatric surgery) resulting in an overhanging “apron” of redundant skin and fat (panniculus) in the lower abdominal area and when **ALL** of the following clinical criteria are met:
  - Documented weight loss greater than 100 lbs; **AND**
  - The patient’s weight has remained stable for a period in excess of six months following a massive weight loss; **AND**
  - Panniculus hangs to or below the level of the pubis; **AND**
  - There is **clinical** evidence of **ANY** of the following chronic or recurring conditions refractory to appropriate medical therapy (e.g., analgesics, antibacterials, antifungals, cortisone ointments, drying agents, strict attention to hygiene, topically applied skin barriers and supportive garments) for a period of at least 6 months:
    - Intertrigo (bacterial or fungal infections)
    - Cellulitis
    - Folliculitis
    - Panniculitis
    - Skin ulceration
    - Actual skin necrosis
    - Skin/subcutaneous abscesses not responsive to conventional medical therapy including a trial of
      - oral antibiotics and topical therapies
      - Monilial infestation / fungal dermatitis