

<b>Policy Name:</b>	<u>Body Contouring</u>		<b>GM Ref:</b>	GM011 & GM019	
<b>First issue date:</b>	January 2015	<b>Current version:</b>	2.2	<b>Last reviewed:</b>	January 2016

**Policy inclusion criteria**

**Panniculectomy (also referred to as Apronectomy)**

a) The patient must have achieved a significant weight loss from a starting BMI of above 40 or above 35 with relevant and significant co-morbidities to a BMI of 28, or below. **OR** Where a BMI of below 28 cannot be achieved, patients should achieve a weight loss equivalent to 75% of the excess body weight (calculated by estimating the target weight for the patient's height to give them a BMI just in the normal range and taking that from their maximum recorded weight dividing by 100 and multiplying by 75). A BMI of up to 40 can be considered here. **NOTE:** 'd' does not apply in these cases.

**AND**

b) The weight loss must have been maintained for a period of 2 years.

**AND THERE IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

c) There is documented evidence of a severe impairment of functional activity associated with the excess skin **OR** Documented evidence of recurrent injury to the area of excess skin. **OR** Clinically documented evidence of persistent or recurrent skin conditions arising as a direct result of the panniculus **OR** A statement from an appropriately qualified clinician that the patient is having problems associated with poorly fitting stoma bags that are likely to be resolved following surgery.

**AND**

d) The panniculus is mainly skin (in very rare cases the procedure may be considered if a clinician provides evidence of induration of the fatty tissue).

**AND**

e) The panniculus hangs below the symphysis pubis when the individual is standing normally.

**Funding mechanism:** Monitored approval: Referrals may be made in line with the criteria without seeking funding. **NOTE:** May be the subject of contract challenges and/or audit of cases against commissioned criteria (except Bolton CCG which is via individual prior approval - requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request).

**Abdominoplasty and other body contouring procedures**

Funding for abdominoplasty and to remove excess skin from other areas of the body is not commissioned. Where clinical exceptionality is demonstrated, patients must also have achieved and maintained a massive weight loss and have significant functional impairments as described in the criteria above for panniculectomy.

**Funding mechanism:** An individual funding request can be made if there is a good case for clinical exceptionality. Requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request.

**Policy exclusions**

Body contouring as part of an externally funded trial or a locally agreed pathway of care is excluded from this policy.