

Policy Category:

CBA&PA

Who usually applies for funding?

GP

Abdominoplasty and Apronectomy

Commissioning decision

The ICB will provide funding for abdominoplasty and apronectomy for patients who meet the criteria defined within this policy. Funding approval for eligible patients must be sought from the ICB via the Prior Approval process prior to treatment.

Policy Statement:

This procedure can be offered to patients who have achieved a reduced weight of at least 50% and have maintained this weight loss for 24 months and have severe functional problems related to the excess abdominal skin including severe difficulties in daily living i.e. ambulatory restrictions.

Rationale:

Excessive abdominal skin folds may occur following weight loss in the previously obese patient and can cause significant functional difficulty. It is important that patients undergoing such procedures have achieved and maintained a stable weight so that the risks of recurrent obesity are reduced.

Plain English Summary:

Significant weight loss reduces the fat in the body but cannot cause skin to revert to its pre-obesity tightness and firmness.

Therefore, if you were obese, especially for many years, and have lost a significant amount of weight you may be left with excess folds and rolls of skin, particularly around the breasts, tummy, hips and limbs.

Cosmetic surgery known as an abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) or an apronectomy (mini-tummy tuck) can be used to remove the excess skin. However, as this treatment is for cosmetic and not clinical reasons, it is not available on the NHS unless the excess skin is causing you significant difficulties, such as severely restricting your ability to move around.

If your doctor believes that you meet the criteria listed in this policy, they will be able to apply to the ICB for funding approval for this type of cosmetic surgery.

Evidence base:

Information for commissioners of Plastic Surgery - referrals and guidelines in Plastic Surgery *Modernisation Agency (Action on Plastic Surgery) (2005)*

Review of local IFR policies – Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset – all restrict access based on similar criteria.

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

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| Policy review date | June 2022 |

Policy sign off

| Reviewing Body | Date of review |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group | 14 April 2015 31 August 2017 |
| Integrated Governance and Quality Committee | 18 June 2015 |

Version Control

| Version No | Type of Change | Date | Description of Change |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| V2 | Date | June 2020 | Review date changed to June 2022. No policy changes. |