



# BARBOUR

PLASTIC SURGERY

## Insurance Information for Panniculectomy Surgery (Excess Abdominal Skin Removal)

In general, panniculectomy surgery (excess abdominal skin removal) is only covered by insurance if the procedure is deemed **medically necessary**. In order for your insurance company to consider a procedure medically necessary, there are specific requirements that you must meet. Every insurance plan is completely different and each plan has different requirements, but the majority of insurance plans require you to meet the following criteria:

1. (a) You have had a prior weight loss procedure and your abdominal skin fold extends below the pubic bone. Your weight must be stable for at least 6 months.

OR

(b) You have had a large amount of weight loss and your abdominal skin fold extends below the pubic bone. Your weight must be stable for at least 6 months.

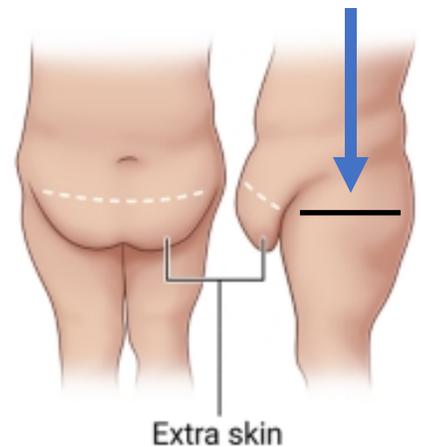
OR

(c) You have not had a weight loss surgery or loss of a large amount of weight and your abdominal skin fold extends below the pubic bone. Your weight must be stable for at least 6 months.

2. The excess skin has caused chronic and/or persistent symptoms (e.g. rashes) that have not responded to 3-6 months of conservative treatment. (*conservative treatment examples include medication, dermatologic treatment of rashes, etc.*)

3. You must have clinical documentation from appointments with your doctor that show your weight has been stable for the past 6 months AND clinical documentation from appointments indicating that symptoms have not responded to conservative treatment for the past 3-6 months. (*clinical note examples include visits to a primary care doctor, a dermatologist, etc.*)

Skin must be below the pubic bone



If you meet the above criteria, you may be a candidate for insurance to authorize a panniculectomy surgery. Your next step is to schedule an appointment with our office to talk about starting the insurance authorization process.

**You will need to mail, fax, or email documentation of the above criteria before you will be able to schedule an appointment. If you do not provide documentation, your appointment will be cancelled until you can provide such documentation.**

Insurance companies also require photographs to be submitted with authorization requests. Pictures will be taken at your appointment and will be included in the authorization request.

***Please keep in mind, insurance authorizations for panniculectomy surgery can take anywhere from 3 weeks to 3 months for an authorization decision to be made from your insurance company.***

If you have any questions, please call our office at [703-972-6655](tel:703-972-6655) or send an email to [patients@drjohnbarbour.com](mailto:patients@drjohnbarbour.com).