

Commissioning Policy

Abdominoplasty & Apronectomy

Prior Approval

Date adopted: 10.12.2024.

Version: v3

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Abdominoplasty & apronectomy
Job title of author:	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group (CPRG)

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
Date Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment was completed:	20.11.2024

Consultation	
Name of group	Date considered
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	14 April 2015 31 August 2017
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	18 June 2025

Authorisation	
Name of group	Date approved
Commissioning Policy Review Group	10.12.2024
System Quality Committee	

Date of adoption	
Date of publication	1 st August 2015
Review date	December 2025
To be reviewed by Commissioning Manager – Elective Care	

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
V2	June 2020	Review date changed to June 2022. No policy changes.		
V3	November 2024	Policy statement changed to reduce time period for	Anneka Taylor	CPRG

		weight loss maintenance from 24 months to 12. December 2025 review date agreed. New policy template adopted.		
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1.0 Background

Excessive abdominal skin folds may occur following weight loss in the previously obese patient and can cause significant functional difficulty. 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.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy category	Policy details
PA	<p>This procedure can be offered to patients who have achieved a reduced weight of at least 50% and have maintained this weight loss for 12 months <u>and</u> have severe functional problems related to the excess abdominal skin including severe difficulties in daily living i.e. ambulatory restrictions.</p> <p>In addition, patients must maintain their weight loss from the point of being listed for surgery until the date of their procedure.</p>

3.0 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the ICB's Individual Funding Request Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician. Personal applications from patients cannot be considered.

4.0 Connected policies

- [Cosmetic procedures – general principles](#)

5.0 References

- Information for commissioners of Plastic Surgery - referrals and guidelines in Plastic Surgery *Modernisation Agency (Action on Plastic Surgery) (2005)*
- Review of local IFR policies – BSW, BNSSG and BOB all restrict access on an exceptional basis.