

<b>Policy title</b>	<b>Body contouring procedures v1.1</b>
<b>Policy position</b>	<b>Intervention Not Normally Funded</b>
<b>Date of Forum recommendation</b>	<b>May 2017</b>

Body contouring procedures i.e. removal of excess skin is **not normally funded** for cosmetic reasons alone. Cosmetic surgery is not generally considered for funding in those aged 18 years and under.

Applications for funding via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process can be considered for patients with significant weight loss with evidence of the following:

- The starting Body Mass Index (BMI)<sup>1</sup> was 45 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or above and the current BMI is between 18 and 27 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and has been maintained at this level for at least 24 months. (Alternatively, 20 points on the BMI scale have been lost and this has been maintained for at least 24 months, but the current BMI is not below 27 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).

AND

- Same site excess skin removal has not already been performed.

AND EITHER

- Documented evidence of clinical pathology due to the excess of overlying skin for a minimum period of one year e.g. severe and documented recurrent infections or cellulitis (excluding intertrigo) that has not responded to systemic antibiotics or antifungals, recurrent ulceration, significant lymphoedema with fluid leakage.

OR

- The specified area of excess skin is causing significant difficulties with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) as documented on the Barthel scale. (In the case of application for abdominoplasty/apronectomy the excess skin will be hanging well below the pubis).

Accompanying photographic evidence and copies of clinical records are required to support the IFR application.

<sup>1</sup> BMI – a measurement that is used to indicate whether a person is underweight, normal weight or overweight. It is calculated by dividing weight in kilograms (kg) by height in metres squared (m<sup>2</sup>). For example, a person who is 1.5metres tall and weighs 55kg has a BMI  $[55/(1.5 \times 1.5)] = 24$ . A BMI less than 20 indicates that the person is underweight, 20–25 indicates that the person is normal weight, 26-30 indicates that the person is overweight and greater than 30 the person is obese.

**NOTE:**

- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance e.g. from NICE
- Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process

**Clinical coding:**

OPCS codes:

S01. Plastic excision of skin of head or neck, abdominal wall or skin of other site (buttock, thigh etc.)

S02.

S03.

Key words: Body contouring, removal of excess skin, apronectomy, abdominoplasty, tummy tuck