

## ABDOMINOPLASTY / APRONECTOMY / BODY CONTOURING / EXCESS SKIN SURGERY

### EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

BSW ICB will not routinely fund cosmetic body contouring procedures. The list below is not an exhaustive list of body contouring procedures but includes the most common.

**Surgery to remove excess skin following significant weight loss.  
and/or**

#### **Abdominoplasty/ apronectomy (removal of excess skin/ fat from the abdomen)**

Requests for surgical removal of excess folds of skin and/or subcutaneous tissue may arise because of weight loss (for example from dieting, after a course of weight loss medication, or following bariatric surgery). It is expected that prior to dietary advice or prescribing weight loss medication or prior to bariatric surgery that clinicians will emphasise to patients the possibility of being left with excess skin and that its removal will **not** be offered as routine NHS provision. Where appropriate, this should be part of the consent process.

#### **Liposuction (also known as liposculpture or suction-assisted lipectomy)**

This procedure is conducted on areas of the body where deposits of fat tend to collect, such as the buttocks, hips, thighs, abdomen, chin, neck, upper arms, knees, clavicles, or ankles. Liposuction simply to correct the distribution of fat is not normally funded by the ICB.

#### **Brachioplasty (upper arm lift)**

This is a surgical procedure to reshape and provide improved contour to the upper arms and connecting area of the chest wall. It is not routinely funded by the ICB.

#### **Buttock lift (belt lipectomy)**

This procedure, which raises and tightens the skin over the buttocks, is not normally funded by the ICB.

#### **Calf implants/ calf augmentation surgery**

Calf implants are inserted into the tops of the calves to increase the size or reshape the lower leg, as well as correcting asymmetry. This procedure is not normally funded by the ICB.

#### **Neck lift**

A neck lift reshapes the skin around the neck and jaw, reducing the appearance of sagging and other visible signs of ageing. This procedure is not normally funded by the ICB.

#### **Thigh lift**

This procedure is not normally funded by the ICB.

The ICB does not fund cosmetic procedures solely to improve appearance in the absence of relevant disease, significant congenital deformity, or significant functional impairment. Psychological distress alone will not normally be accepted as a reason to fund surgery.

Primary care must obtain funding from the ICB through an Exceptional Funding Request before referring patients.

Related BSW ICB policy: Aesthetic surgery.