

PANNICULECTOMY

Clinical Indications

The following criteria **must** be met for completion of a panniculectomy¹ within an Alberta Health Services (AHS) or AHS contracted facility **following significant weight loss**:

CRITERIA		
1a. Following weight loss that was independent of surgical intervention, 12 months of weight stability ² is required	OR	1b. Following bariatric surgery weight loss, 12 months post-surgery + 6 months weight stability ² is required
AND		
2. Panniculus size: hangs below and obscures the genitalia, impacting patient quality of life		
AND		
3. Minimum of 2.5 kg of tissue or 2.5% of body weight expected to be removed		
AND AT LEAST ONE OF:		
4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Patient has chronic and recurrent (2-3 times per year) skin infections due to panniculus, as confirmed and documented by surgical specialist b. Documentation of necrosis of the panniculus c. Poorly fitting colostomy/stoma bags as a direct effect of the panniculus size d. Problems with (genital) hygiene as a direct effect of the panniculus size e. Surgery is expected to restore functional impairment; impairment due to the size of the panniculus 		

The following are not indications for abdominal panniculectomy: rash, back pain, multiple gestation, previous caesarean section, tethered abdominal scars, postural changes, rectus diastasis.

¹ Panniculectomy is defined as the removal of the abdominal panniculus, without the involvement of the abdominal wall or expectations of a cosmetic outcome.

² Weight stability defined as weight +/- 5 kg.