

Documentation and Reporting Morbid Obesity

DOCUMENTATION TIPS

The provider must document the diagnosis of obese or morbid (severe) obesity. A dietician or other healthcare provider may document the patient's body mass index (BMI); however, the diagnosis code for the BMI may only be reported secondary to a diagnosis of obesity or morbid obesity.¹

The progress note should include:

- Patient's height
- Patient's weight
- BMI
- Diagnosis of morbid or severe obesity
- Comorbid conditions complicating obesity or morbid (severe) obesity
- Counseling, treatment, recommendations for patient to reduce weight

Morbid Obesity

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E66.01	Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories
E66.09	Other obesity due to excess calories
E66.1	Drug-induced obesity (Use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify the drug T36.- - T50.-)
E66.2	Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation <i>Obesity hypoventilation syndrome (OHS)</i> <i>Pickwickian syndrome</i>
E66.3	Overweight
E66.8	Other obesity
E66.9	Obesity, unspecified

Body Mass Index (BMI) (not an all-inclusive list)

ICD-10-CM Code	Weight Status	BMI Range
Z68.20 – Z68.24	Normal range	18.50 – 24.99
Z68.25	Overweight	>25.00
Z68.25 – Z68.29	Pre-obese	25.00 – 29.99
Z68.30	Obese	>30.00
Z68.30 – Z68.34	Obese class I	30.00 – 34.99

ICD-10-CM Code	Weight Status	BMI Range
Z68.35 – Z68.39	Obese class II	35.00 – 39.99
Z68.41 – Z68.45	Morbid (severe) obesity	>40.00

The BMI range is accurate for adults 20 years of age and older. BMI pediatric diagnosis codes range from Z68.51 –Z68.54, based on the percentile for age.

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING EXAMPLE

Vitals: Temp (°F) 97.8, Wt. 242 lbs., Ht. 64”, BMI kg/m² 41, BP 140/80. A1c 8.0

Morbid obesity - advised patient to continue with low calorie diet and exercise. Counseled patient on weight status affecting diabetic control and hypertension. Pt has lost 5 lbs. since last visit. Type 2 diabetes with hyperglycemia. Check blood sugar before meals. Avoid processed foods and carbohydrates.

Encourage lean meats, fruits and vegetables. Continue insulin.

Hypertension - continue Lisinopril 10 mg q.d.

E66.01 Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories

Z68.41 Body mass index (BMI) 40.0-44.9, Adult

E11.65 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia

I10.0 Hypertension

Z79.4 Long term (current) use of insulin



HEDIS: Detailed information about measures related to obesity is available through your Passport/Molina Quality Representative.

According to the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022: “A dash (-) at the end of an alphabetic index entry indicates that additional characters are required.” Refer to the tabular list to identify the appropriate character(s) that will complete the diagnosis code.

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022. 1 Oct. 2021, www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf. Accessed 30 Nov. 2021.
2. Martin, T. J. (2019, August 6). Treatment and prognosis of the obesity hypoventilation syndrome. Retrieved from <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-and-prognosis-of-the-obesity-hypoventilation-syndrome>
3. NHLBI Obesity Education Initiative Expert Panel on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults. (2000, October). The practical guide: Identification, evaluation, and treatment of overweight and obesity in adults. Retrieved from www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/guidelines/prctgd_c.pdf