Morbid Obesity

It is important to accurately document and code morbid obesity.

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

Morbid obesity affects medical decision making along with the patient's treatment plan.

Documentation

▶ Codes for overweight, obesity or morbid obesity must be assigned based on the provider's documentation of this condition. Therefore, if morbid obesity is documented, assign code **E66.01** – Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories.

▶ While the body mass index (BMI) is used as a screening tool for patients who are overweight or obese, there is no coding rule that defines what BMI values correspond to obesity or morbid obesity. The provider must also document the diagnosis **and** the care plan.

Coding Tips

▶ Any patient with BMI > 40 should be evaluated for severe obesity with the appropriate diagnosis code assigned: **E66.01** – Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories.

▶ It is important to evaluate and code for severe obesity in patients with comorbidities, even if the BMI is below 40. Some examples of these comorbidities include heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, previous stroke or osteoarthritis.

▶ If the BMI is associated with a weight-related diagnosis such as morbid obesity, both the BMI and the weight-related diagnosis should be documented and coded. For example, a patient with documented severe obesity and lifestyle modification counseling and a documented BMI of 42 would be coded as **E66.01** and **Z68.41**.

Morbid Obesity	
Description	Code
Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories	E66.01-
Other obesity due to excess calories	E66.09-
Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation	E66.2-
Body mass index (BMI) 40.0-44.9, adult	Z68.41
Body mass index (BMI) 45.0-49.9, adult	Z68.42-
Body mass index (BMI) 50.0-59.9, adult	Z68.43-
Body mas index (BMI) 60.0-69.9, adult	Z68.44-
Body mass index (BMI) 70 or greater, adult	Z68.45-

TIP:

A BMI alone is not a weight-related diagnosis. The appropriate diagnosis of obesity, morbid obesity and/or malnutrition is required as well.

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