

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Morbid Obesity

As healthcare reimbursement increasingly shifts its focus to risk adjustment and encounter data, our goal is to support our physicians as they continue to provide quality care to our patients. This Gem information will assist you in more fully supporting diagnoses within the patient encounter through Documentation Improvement guidance.

Morbid Obesity

When documenting **morbid obesity** please specify:

- **Type: (if known):** morbid (severe) obesity, morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation, morbid (severe) obesity with hypoventilation syndrome OHS
- **Cause:** Due to excess calories and/or Drug-induced (please document the drug)
- **Associated Comorbid Conditions:** For example, hypertension, diabetes, COPD
- **Weight and BMI:** The provider must document the condition. The **BMI** may be assigned from the documentation of other caregivers or dietitians.
- **Use additional code** to identify body mass index (**BMI**)(Z68.-)

Coders cannot assume additional diagnoses based on **BMI** readings. For example, a **BMI** of **> 40** typically risk adjusts because it is an accepted marker for “morbid obesity”, however a coder cannot code for morbid obesity (**E66.01**) unless this is specifically documented by the provider.

Do Not:

- Describe a current obesity diagnosis as “**history of;**”
- Document a suspected or unconfirmed diagnosis as if it were confirmed; or
- Use terms that imply uncertainty (e.g., “**probable,**” “**apparently,**” “**likely,**” “**consistent with,**” etc.) to describe a current, confirmed diagnosis of morbid obesity.

Reference: <https://obesitymedicine.org/what-is-morbid-obesity/>

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.

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Morbid Obesity	ICD-10 Codes
Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories	E66.01
Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation	E66.2

Body Mass Index

Body Mass Index (BMI)	ICD-10 Codes
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 mass index (BMI) 60.0-69.9, adult	Z68.44
Body mass index (BMI) 70 or greater, adult	Z68.45

Physician Documentation Examples

Physician Documentation Examples	ICD-10 Codes
30-year-old male with morbid obesity due to excess calories, BMI 41 Plan: Weight loss plan discussed	E66.01, Z68.41
40-year-old female with morbid obesity due to excess calories, BMI 38 Plan: Continue weight loss program and use CPAP system during sleep	E66.01, Z68.38

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