OCTOBER 2026

Morbid Obesity

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for Morbid Obesity. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

To accurately code a patient as morbidly obese, the provider must document the patient's obesity in the medical record. Per 2020 ICD-10-CM Guidelines, "BMI codes should only be assigned when there is an associated, reportable diagnosis (such as morbid obesity, overweight, obese, obesity. Do not assign BMI codes during pregnancy."

ICD-10-CM Codes and Description

- **E66.01 – Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories**
- **E66.2 – Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation**
- **E66.811 – Obesity Class 1 (BMI of 30 to less than 35)**
- **E66.812 – Obesity Class 2 (BMI of 35 to less than 40)**
- **E66.813 – Obesity Class 3 (BMI of 40 or higher)**

ICD-10-CM	Description	Documentation should include the following
Z68.41	Body mass index [BMI] 40.0–44.9 adult	• The patient's height, weight, and BMI (a BMI ≥ 40 is considered extreme obesity) • Specifically documented BMI in the medical record • Presence or absence of any current symptoms related to morbid obesity, severe obesity, or extreme obesity • Any associated diagnoses that caused the condition, with terms that show the cause-and-effect relationship (e.g., "due to," "secondary to," "related to," etc.) • Any referrals to a nutritionist • Educational material related to obesity conditions, with information about balanced diet, plan for follow-up visit, etc. **NOTE**: "Associated diagnoses such as morbid obesity must be documented by the patient's provider." (2020 ICD-10-CM Guidelines)
Z68.42	Body mass index [BMI] 45.0–49.9 adult	
Z68.43	Body mass index [BMI] 50.0–59.9 adult	
Z68.44	Body mass index [BMI] 60.0–69.9 adult	
Z68.45	Body mass index [BMI] 70 or greater, adult	

Coding Tips

- **Z15.2** - Genetic susceptibility to obesity
  - Code also, if applicable, any associated manifestation such as other obesity (**E66.8**-), Polyphagia (**R63.2**).
  - Use Additional code to identify body mass index (BMI), if known (**Z68**.-)
- The obesity class should be documented in the medical record by the provider for these codes to be assigned.
  - If both class 3 obesity and morbid obesity are documented, only a code for class 3 obesity should be assigned as it is more specific.
- When the documentation reflects fluctuating BMI Values during the current encounter for an associated reportable condition, assign a code for the most severe value.
- BMI codes should only be assigned when there is an associated, reportable diagnosis (such as obesity or anorexia) documented by the patient's provider.

References

- 2026-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf
- https://www.codingclinicadvisor.com/
- https://www.aapc.com/

Questions?

Contact us at #Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org.

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section on HFproviders.org

Interested in receiving Healthfirst provider updates? Join our mailing list at HFproviders.org/subscribe.

Coverage is provided by Healthfirst Health Plan, Inc., Healthfirst PHSP, Inc., and/or Healthfirst Insurance Company, Inc. (together, “Healthfirst”).

<26-5776> PRX26_50