Documentation and Coding Tips

Overweight, Obesity & BMI

Follow these best practices for capturing accurate documentation for Overweight, Obesity and BMI visits:

- BMI may be documented by any clinical staff or provider but, an associated diagnosis of overweight, obesity or morbid obesity must be documented by the patient's provider.

- BMI diagnosis codes should only be reported when the associated diagnosis is documented:
  - E66.01-Morbid (severe) obesity, due to excess calories
  - E66.09-Other obesity due to excess calories E66.1-Drug induced obesity
  - E66.2-Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation
  - E66.3-Overweight
  - E66.8-Other obesity
  - E66.811-Obesity, Class 1
  - E66.812-Obesity, Class 2
  - E66.813-Obesity, Class 3
  - E66.9-Obesity, unspecified
- The explicit provider diagnosis determines the weight-related ICD.10 obesity code, not the documented BMI.
- Morbid obesity may be reported for patients with a BMI of 35 or greater when associated comorbid condition(s) is also documented.

Specify When Documenting:

- **Type:** Overweight, obesity, morbid obesity, morbid obesity with alveolar hypoventilation
- **Cause:** Due to excess calories, drug-induced obesity (specify drug)
- **Comorbidities/complication factors**: Cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, sleep apnea, etc.
- **Treatment:** Evidence-based diet, behavioral counseling, bariatric surgery

Documentation and Coding Examples:

Documentation Examples
72-year-old male patient seen today, concerned he has gained 20 pounds over the last year and his struggle with obesity. Recommend he lose weight through diet and exercise before prescribing any medication.
Assign code: E66.9, Obesity, unspecified.

68-year-old female patient presents today for Class 3 obesity. She admits to overeating and is morbidly obese. Her BMI today is 49.07. Discussed plan for healthy eating habits and exercise.
Assign code: E66.813, Obesity, Class 3. Z68.42 BMI 45.0-49.9.
Note: If both Morbid Obesity & Class 3 Obesity are documented, only a code for Class 3 Obesity should be assigned as it is more specific.

Patient seen today for weight loss counseling. The patient has a BMI of 36 and is morbidly obese. Patient also has comorbidities related to obesity, which are hypertension and obstructive sleep apnea.
Assign code: E66.01, Morbid obesity due to excess calories. I10 Hypertension. G47.33 Obstructive sleep apnea. Z68.36 BMI 36.0-36.9. Z71.3 Dietary counseling and surveillance.