

Billing Codes and Strategies

Reimbursement for obesity management depends on successfully medicalizing the disease of obesity.

Obesity does not have to be defined as the primary diagnosis; in fact, a more successful strategy is to use billing codes for relevant obesity complications or related comorbidities.

Obesity Codes	ICD-10 Code
Obesity*	278.00
Obesity other	E66.8
Obesity unspecified	E66.9
Morbid obesity (BMI >35 kg/m ²)	E66.01
Weight gain	R63.5

*Rarely reimbursed.

Related Conditions	ICD-10 Code
Cardiovascular	
Hyperlipidemia	E78.2, E78.5
Dyslipidemia	E78.5
Hypertension	I10
Hypertensive cardiovascular disease with heart failure	I11.0+I50.9
Hypertensive cardiovascular disease without heart failure	I11.9
Digestive	
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	K21.9
Intestinal malabsorption unspecified	K90.9
Gonadal	
Acne vulgaris	L70.0
Amenorrhea other	N91.2
Decreased libido	R68.82
Erectile dysfunction	N52.9
Hirsutism	L68.0
Menstrual irregular unspecified	N92.6



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Related Conditions	ICD-10 Code
Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)	E28.2
Primary ovarian failure other	E28.39
Testicular hypofunction	E29.1
Metabolic	
Diabetes	E11.8, E11.9
Impaired fasting glucose	R73.01
Metabolic syndrome	E88.81
Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)	K76.0
Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)	K75.81
Prediabetes	R73.09
Psychiatric	
Anorexia nervosa unspecified	F50.00
Bulimia nervosa	F50.2
Structural	
Osteoarthritis	M15.0
Sleep apnea unspecified	G47.3
Sleep apnea obstructive	G47.33
Snoring	R06.83

EM Codes

Most visits for obesity will be treated as a level 3 (99213; usually 15-20 minutes).

Visits with moderate to high medical decision making may be coded as a level 4 (99214; usually ≥ 25 minutes). For instance, a level 4 visit would be a long one in which over half the time is spent discussing treatment, including

- Diet advice
- Exercise prescription
- Behavior modification
- Medication recommendations, including benefits, limitations, and risks
- Benefits, limitations, and risks of surgical interventions

