

Clinical Documentation Tips

Using the right documentation and coding helps your team—and ours—get our members the best care possible. Here are a few tips to help you code kidney disease and obesity.

Morbid obesity

This condition is often under coded because of patient sensitivity.

How should you code it?

Be as specific as possible. The National Institute of Health defines morbid obesity as a BMI of over 40, or over 35 with comorbidities such as diabetes, heart disease, or hypertension.

Don't want to use the term "morbid obesity"?

Document "severe obesity." Use morbid obesity code E66.01, plus an additional BMI code:

- Z68.41 40.0-44.9
- Z68.42 45.0-49.9
- Z68.43 50.0-59.9
- Z68.44 60.0-69.9
- Z68.45 70 or greater (adult)

Be sure to include a diagnostic statement of overweight, obesity, or morbid obesity, plus any relationship to comorbid conditions, with the codes.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

CMS added codes for 2 new stages, 3a and 3b, to help measure and track outcomes and the risk of mortality.

How should you code it?

To support CKD codes, be sure to document:

- GFR trends over the last 3 months
- Any medications used to control symptoms and disease progression
- Any presence of albumin or creatinine in the urine

| STAGE | GFR | ICD-10 CODE |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | >90 | N18.1 |
| 2 | 60-89 | N18.2 |
| 3 | 30-59 | N18.3 |
| 3a | 45-59 | N18.31 |
| 3b | 30-44 | N18.32 |
| 4 | 12-29 | N18.4 |
| 5 | <15 | N18.5 |
| ESRD | <15 requiring chronic dialysis | N18.6 |

Don't forget

Bill us by **August 1** for all **January through June 30** dates of service.

Questions?

You can find more risk adjustment and coding resources in the Availity portal. Or email us.

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