Severe Obesity (E66.01)

**Overview:** Severe obesity (E66.01) may be recommended for consideration when:

- BMI is ≥ 40

or

- BMI is 35-39.9 with **at least one** serious comorbid condition that is due to or worsened by the obesity

**Pearl:** synonyms for severe obesity include:

- Class 2 obesity with serious comorbidity
- Class 3 obesity
- Morbid obesity

Whichever description is chosen, it must include the word obesity. Listing the BMI alone does not suffice.

**Examples of serious comorbid conditions:**

- Poorly controlled hypertension
- Established coronary heart disease
- Obesity hypoventilation syndrome
- Severe venous stasis disease

**Other potential qualifying conditions include:**

- Impaired quality of life
- Impaired mobility
- Disqualification from surgery as a result of obesity

If present, these comorbidities should be documented concurrently with the diagnosis of severe obesity.

Resources:
2. Up to Date, Overweight and obesity in adults: health consequences
4. Up to Date, Bariatric operations for management of obesity: Indications and perioperative preparation
5. CMS: Article – Billing and Coding Bariatric Surgery for treatment of co-morbidities conditions related to morbid obesity (C55052)

Updated 2/14/24