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, visit documentation must include the word obesity. Listing the BMI alone does not suffice.

Examples of serious comorbid conditions:

Cardiovascular
- Poorly controlled hypertension
- Established coronary heart disease

Respiratory
- Asthma
- Sleep apnea

Endo/metabolic
- Insulin resistance / prediabetes
- Type 2 diabetes
- Uncontrolled GORD
- NASH
- Idiopathic intracranial hypertension

Gastrointestinal
- Obesity hyperventilation syndrome
- Pickwickian syndrome
- Pulmonary hypertension

Neurologic
- Severe stress incontinence
- Delirium

Urologic
- Debilitating osteoarthritis (hip, shoulder, ankle)

Musculoskeletal
- Spinal disease (disc degeneration, discitis, spondylolisthesis)

Other potential qualifying conditions include:

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

Pearl: If present, visit documentation should include these comorbidities with the diagnosis of severe obesity.

Resources:

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