



## HCC Coding Alternatives - Morbid (severe) obesity

Patients with a BMI  $\geq$  40, or who are 100 pounds or more overweight, qualify as morbidly obese. It is essential to clearly document both the BMI and the morbid obesity diagnosis for appropriate HCC assignment and risk contribution. Increasing a patient's risk score will help to adjust CMS' monthly payment amount to be more reflective of the cost of that patient's care.

- For example, for a patient with a BMI of 45, both ICD-10 codes E66.01 (morbid obesity) and Z68.42 (BMI 45 - 49.9) should be assigned.

Instead of...		RAF: 0.000
E66.9	Obesity, unspecified	
E66.09	Other obesity due to excess calories	
E66.3	Overweight	
E66.8	Other obesity	
Consider (when clinically relevant)...		RAF: 0.273
E66.01	Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories	
E66.2	Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation	
Z68.41	Body mass index (BMI) 40.0-44.9, adult	
Z68.42	Body mass index (BMI) 45.0-49.9, adult	
Z68.43	Body mass index (BMI) 50-59.9, adult	
Z68.44	Body mass index (BMI) 60.0-69.9, adult	
Z68.45	Body mass index (BMI) 70 or greater, adult	

A patient with a BMI of  $\geq$  35 can be diagnosed with morbid obesity if the patient has at least one related condition or comorbidity, such as sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, or coronary artery disease. Since morbid obesity status can affect medical decision making, related conditions or comorbidities should be clearly linked and documented within the body of the note.

**Important Note:** Since patients have access to their medical information, you may feel more comfortable using a Severe obesity diagnosis, rather than Morbid obesity. Both options are coded with E66.01 and are available in the EHR.