

# AAP Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)

## Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Obesity

**Nazrat Mirza, MD, ScD**

Medical Director, I.D.E.A.L Pediatric  
Weight Management Clinic,  
Children's National Health  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
George Washington University

**Susma Vaidya, MD, MPH**

Associate Medical Director, I.D.E.A.L  
Pediatric Weight Management  
Clinic, Children's National Health  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
George Washington University



**Pediatric Health Network**



American Academy of Pediatrics  
Institute for Healthy  
Childhood Weight



# A few notes about today's Grand Rounds

- All lines are muted throughout the presentation.
- Please use the Q&A to ask questions or make comments.
- We will be recording the session.
- Today's recording and materials will be posted to the PHN website 3 business days following the presentation:

<https://pediatrichealthnetwork.org/>

# Objectives

- Understand the reasoning behind the new Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)
- Review the new CPG Key Action Statements (KAS)
- Review the management of pediatric obesity including evaluation, Intensive Health Behavior Treatment (IHBT), pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery as outlined in the CPG

## What the CPG does not include:

- The CPG does not cover the **prevention of obesity** – which will be addressed in a forthcoming AAP policy statement
- The CPG does not include guidance for evaluation and treatment of overweight and obesity in **children younger than 2 years**

# Looking Back: the Last Published Guidelines...

## PEDIATRICS<sup>®</sup>

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

*Pediatrics* 2007;120;Supplement 163-288

**Expert Committee Recommendations Regarding the Prevention, Assessment,  
and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity: Summary  
Report**

Sarah E. Barlow and the Expert Committee

**Assessment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity**

Nancy F. Krebs, John H. Himes, Dawn Jacobson, Theresa A. Nicklas, Patricia  
Guilday and Dennis Styne

**Recommendations for Prevention of Childhood Obesity**

Matthew M. Davis, Bonnie Gance-Cleveland, Sandra Hassink, Rachel Johnson, Gilles  
Paradis and Kenneth Resnicow

**Recommendations for Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and  
Obesity**

Bonnie A. Spear, Sarah E. Barlow, Chris Ervin, David S. Ludwig, Brian E. Saelens,  
Karen E. Schetzina and Elsie M. Taveras

### Writing Groups Appointed:

1. Assessment
2. Prevention
3. Treatment

### Each group was tasked with:

- literature review (not a systematic review)
- recommendation development and writing

**Pediatric Health Network**

 Children's National.

# Where Are We Today?



**14.1**

**Million children and  
adolescents in the  
United States are  
affected by obesity**

**4.5 Million Children and  
Adolescents with Severe Obesity**



**Obesity affects the immediate  
and long-term health of  
children**



# CPG Development



## Comprehensive Process

2017



2023

# CPG By the Numbers





# Methodology – Scope of the Review

## Key Question 1

What are clinic-based, effective treatments for obesity?

## Key Question 2

What is the risk of comorbidities among children with obesity?

Original search period ended April 6, 2018.  
An additional search was conducted covering the time period April 7, 2018 - February 15, 2020.

- 15 988 Articles screened
- 1642 Full text articles reviewed
- 382 Studies included

# Key Q1 (treatment) Inclusion Criteria

215  
Studies  
Included

- **Primary aim: prevention or treatment intervention**
  - Obesity prevention: targeting children of any weight status
  - Treatment intervention: targeting children with overweight or obesity
- Primary intended outcome: Obesity
- Interventions: any approach
- Evidence review committee did not limit based on study design
- Experimental and non-experimental studies reported separately
- All studies had to have relevant comparison group

# Key Q2 (comorbidities) Inclusion Criteria

167  
Studies  
Included

- **Primary aim: comparing comorbidities among those with and without obesity or by obesity severity**
- Obesity and comorbidity measured contemporaneously to reflect the practice of clinical screening
- Obesity categorized using a BMI-based measure into accepted categories (i.e., healthy weight, overweight, class I obesity, class II obesity, class III obesity)
- Comorbidities included one or more of: lipids, blood pressure, liver function, glucose metabolism abnormalities, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, depression

# Evidence Grading for Key Action Statements (KAS) Development

AGGREGATE EVIDENCE QUALITY	BENEFIT OR HARM PREDOMINATES	BENEFIT AND HARM BALANCED
<b>LEVEL A</b> Intervention: Well designed and conducted trials, meta-analyses on applicable populations Diagnosis: Independent gold standard studies of applicable populations	<b>STRONG RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>WEAK RECOMMENDATION</b> (based on balance of benefit and harm)
<b>LEVEL B</b> Trials or diagnostic studies with minor limitations; consistent findings from multiple observational studies	<b>MODERATE RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<b>LEVEL C</b> Single or few observational studies or multiple studies with inconsistent findings or major limitations.	<b>WEAK RECOMMENDATION</b> (based on low quality evidence)	
<b>LEVEL D</b> Expert opinion, case reports, reasoning from first principles		<b>No recommendation may be made.</b>
<b>LEVEL X</b> Exceptional situations where validating studies cannot be performed and benefit or harm clearly predominates	<b>STRONG RECOMMENDATION</b> <b>MODERATE RECOMMENDATION</b>	

# New From Previous Recommendations

NEW

- We understand more fully the implications of obesity as a **chronic disease**
- We understand the physiological impacts of **social determinants of health (SDoH)** on obesity more completely
- We know more fully that **weight bias and stigma are pervasive** and harmful and can be a barrier to treatment



# New from Previous Recommendations Continued

NEW

- Offer treatment early and immediately – there is no benefit to watchful waiting
- Treat obesity and comorbid conditions concurrently
- There are multiple evidence-based strategies that can be used collectively to deliver intensive & tailored obesity treatment
- Structured, supervised weight management interventions decrease current & future eating disorder symptoms

# Whole Child Approach

Underlying **genetic, biological, environmental,** and **social determinants** that are risks for obesity are the foundation of evaluation and treatment

**-AAP Clinical practice Guidelines**

# Obesity is a Complex Chronic Disease

- ❑ Obesity is often an indicator of **structural inequities** like unjust food systems, health inequities and environmental & community factors
- ❑ Genetics, obesity-promoting environments, life experiences combined with inequities and structural barriers to healthy living all contribute to overweight and obesity
- ❑ Other risk factors...

# Evaluation Recommendations



- The primary care clinician is well-positioned to:
- ✓ evaluate for weight-related comorbidities
  - ✓ appropriately initiate treatment
  - ✓ coordinate care with subspecialties
  - ✓ and provide concurrent obesity & comorbidity treatment

--CPG



# KAS 1: BMI Measurement (Grade B)

PHCPs should measure height and weight, calculate BMI and assess BMI %tile using age- and sex-specific CDC growth charts or growth charts for children with severe obesity at least annually for all children 2 to 18 y of age to screen for:

- overweight ( $\text{BMI} \geq 85^{\text{th}}$  %tile to  $< 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile)
- obesity ( $\text{BMI} \geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile)
- severe obesity ( $\text{BMI} \geq 120\%$  of the  $95^{\text{th}}$  %tile for age and sex)



# Assess Risk

## Consensus Recommendation: Perform Initial and Longitudinal Assessment of:

- Individual
- Structural
- Contextual Risk Factors



to provide individualized and tailored treatment of the child/adolescent with overweight/obesity

# Evaluation Sets the Stage for Treatment

## Socioecological Model

- Child
- Family
- Community
- Society



# Comorbidities

“There is compelling evidence that obesity increases the risk for comorbidities, and that weight loss interventions can improve comorbidities.

– CPG”



## KAS 2: Evaluate for Comorbid Conditions (Grade B)

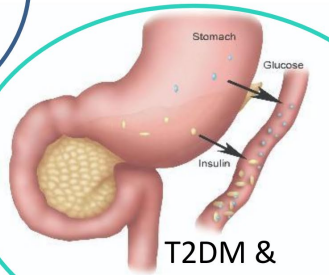
PHCPs should evaluate children 2 to 18 y of age with overweight (BMI  $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  %tile to  $< 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile) and obesity (BMI  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile) for obesity-related comorbidities by using:

- a comprehensive patient history
- mental & behavioral health screening
- SDoH evaluation
- physical examination
- & diagnostic studies

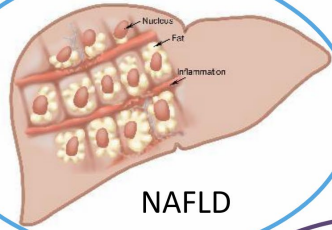
# Comorbidities Addressed Include



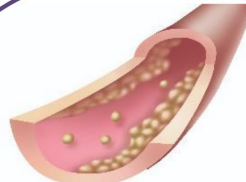
Hypertension



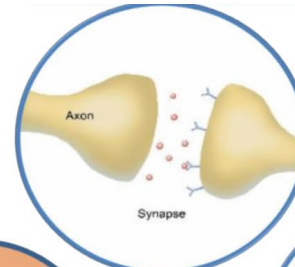
T2DM &  
Prediabetes



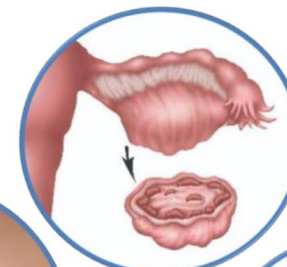
NAFLD



Dyslipidemia



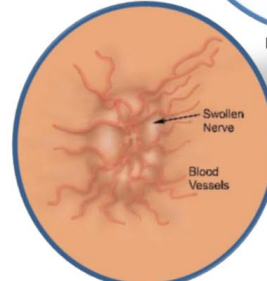
Depression



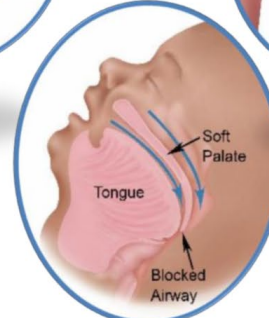
PCOS



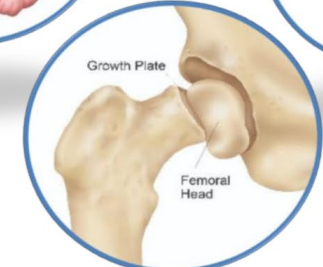
Blount disease



Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension



Obstructive Sleep Apnea



SCFE



# KAS 3: Lab Evaluation (Grade B)

In children **10 y and older**, PHCPs should evaluate for:

- lipid abnormalities
- abnormal glucose metabolism
- abnormal liver function



in children & adolescents with  
**obesity** (BMI  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile)

- for lipid abnormalities



in children & adolescents with  
**overweight** (BMI  $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  to  $< 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile)

# KAS 3.1: Lab Evaluation (Grade C)

In children **10 y and older with overweight** (BMI  $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  to  $< 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile) PHCPs **may evaluate** for:

- abnormal glucose metabolism
- abnormal liver function



in the presence of risk factors for T2DM or NAFLD

In children **2 to 9 y of age with obesity** (BMI  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  %tile) PHCPs **may evaluate** for:

- lipid abnormalities

# KAS 5: Labs and Diagnostic Screening Dyslipidemia (Grades B & C)

PHCPs should evaluate for dyslipidemia by:

- Obtaining a fasting lipid panel in children 10 y and older with overweight and obesity (Grade B)
- And may evaluate for dyslipidemia in children 2 through 9 y of age with obesity (Grade C)

# KAS 6: Labs and Diagnostic Screening Prediabetes and Diabetes Mellitus (Grade B)

PHCPs **should evaluate** for **prediabetes and/or diabetes mellitus** with:

- Fasting plasma glucose
- 2-h plasma glucose after 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT)
- Or glycosylated hemoglobin (HgA1c)

# KAS 7: Labs and Diagnostic Screening NAFLD (Grade A)

PHCPs **should evaluate for NAFLD** by obtaining an:

- Alanine transaminase test (ALT)



# KAS 8: Labs and Diagnostic Screening Hypertension (Grade C)

PHCPs should evaluate for hypertension by:

- **measuring blood pressure at every visit starting at 3 y of age in children and adolescent **with overweight and obesity****

# Consensus Recommendations for Other Comorbid Conditions

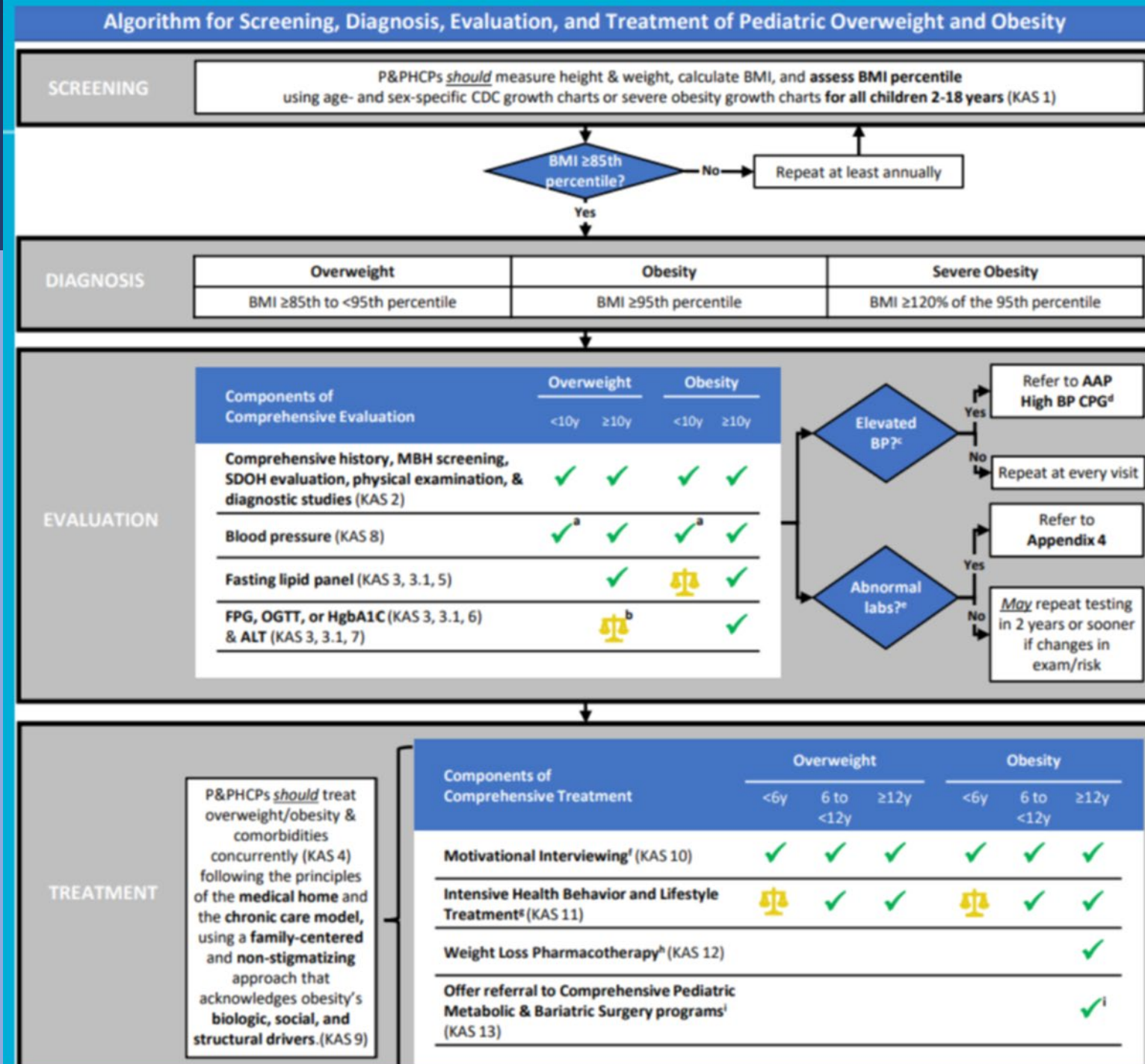
Comorbid Condition	Consensus Recommendation
OSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtain a sleep history, including symptoms of snoring, daytime somnolence, nocturnal enuresis, morning headaches, and inattention, among children and adolescents with obesity to evaluate for OSA.</li><li>• Obtain a polysomnogram for children and adolescents with obesity and at least one symptom of disordered breathing.</li></ul>
PCOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate for menstrual irregularities and signs of hyperandrogenism (ie, hirsutism, acne) among female adolescents with obesity to assess risk for PCOS.</li></ul>
Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor for symptoms of depression in children and adolescents with obesity and conduct annual evaluation for depression for adolescents 12 years and older with a formal self-report tool.</li></ul>
Blount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perform a musculoskeletal review of systems and physical examination (eg, internal hip rotation in growing child, gait) as part of their evaluation for obesity.</li></ul>
SCFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommend immediate and complete activity restriction, non–weight-bearing with use of crutches, and refer to an orthopaedic surgeon for emergent evaluation, if SCFE is suspected. PHCPs may consider sending the child to an emergency department if an orthopaedic surgeon is not available.</li></ul>
IIH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain a high index of suspicion for IIH with new-onset or progressive headaches in the context of significant weight gain, especially for females.</li></ul>

# KAS 4: Concurrent Treatment (Grade A)

PHCPs should treat children and adolescents for overweight (BMI  $\geq$ 85th to <95th %tile) or obesity (BMI  $\geq$ 95<sup>th</sup> %tile) and **comorbidities concurrently**

# Evaluation & Labs: Summarized in Algorithm

- Weight category and age associated with each applicable KAS
- Action to take is based on the result
- Connection to other CPGs



# KAS 9: Treatment Recommendations

## Comprehensive Obesity Treatment (Grade B)

PHCPs **should treat overweight and obesity** in children & adolescents following the principles of:

- The **medical home**
- The **chronic care model**
- Using a **family-centered & non-stigmatizing** approach that acknowledges obesity's **biologic, social, and structural drivers**

# KAS 10: Motivational Interviewing (Grade B)

PHCPs **should use motivational interviewing** (MI):

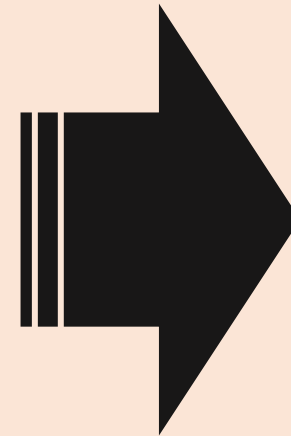
- To engage patients & families in treating overweight and obesity



# KAS 11: Intensive Health Behavior and Lifestyle Treatment (Grades B and C)

PHCPs:

- **should provide or refer** children **6 y and older** with overweight and obesity **(Grade B)**
- **may provide or refer** children **2 to 5 y of age** with overweight and obesity **(Grade C)**



**Intensive health  
behavior & lifestyle  
treatment (IHBLT)**

Health behavior & lifestyle treatment is **more effective with greater contact hours**; the most **effective treatment includes 26 or more hours** of face-to-face, family-based, **multicomponent treatment over 3- to 12-mo period**

# More about IHBLT



# When IHBLT is not Available

**Deliver the best available intensive treatment to all children with overweight & obesity**

**Build collaborations with other specialists and programs in the community**

# KAS 12: Pharmacotherapy (Grade B)

PHCPs should offer adolescents 12 y and older with obesity:

- Pharmacotherapy according to medication indications, risks, and benefits, as an adjunct to health behavior & lifestyle treatment

# Pharmacotherapy

**Consensus Recommendation:** PHCPs may offer children:

- ages **8 y through 11 y of age** with obesity weight loss pharmacotherapy, according to medication indications, risks, and benefits, as an adjunct to health behavior & lifestyle treatment

# Pharmacotherapy

***“No current evidence supports weight loss medication use as monotherapy; thus, PHCPs who prescribe weight loss medication to children should provide or refer to intensive behavioral interventions for patients & families as an adjunct to medication therapy.”***

**CPG**



# Prescriber Qualifications

PHCPs who prescribe weight loss medications should have knowledge of:

- Patient selection criteria
  - Medication efficacy
  - Adverse effects, and
  - Follow-up monitoring guidelines
- Injectable medications may require additional teaching

# Pharmacotherapy: Metformin

- Antidiabetic agent which increases insulin sensitivity and decreases blood glucose
- **Off label use:** prediabetes, PCOS, prevention of weight gain with an **atypical antipsychotic**
- Common adverse effects: bloating, nausea, flatulence, diarrhea
- Minimal weight loss in adult and pediatric populations
- Consider as an adjunct to IHBLT when other indications present

# Pharmacotherapy: Orlistat

- Intestinal lipase inhibitor
- FDA approved for  $\geq 12$  years of age
- Adverse effects: steatorrhea, fecal urgency, flatulence
- Minimal BMI reduction

# Pharmacotherapy: Phentermine

- Norepinephrine, serotonin, and dopamine reuptake inhibitor with appetite suppression
- FDA approved for  $\geq 16$  years of age for short-course treatment ( 3 months)
- Adverse effects include elevated blood pressure and headaches
- Efficacy wanes with the development of tolerance

# Pharmacotherapy: Topiramate

- Unclear mechanism of appetite suppression
- FDA approved for  $\geq 2$  years of age for epilepsy and  $\geq 12$  years of age for headaches
- Off label use for appetite suppression/weight loss
- Adverse effects: cognitive blunting, potential teratogen

# Pharmacotherapy: Phentermine and Topiramate

## Synergistic effect

- FDA approved in 2022 for  $\geq 12$  years of age
- Study demonstrated 8-10% decrease in BMI in patients compared with placebo
- Improved TG and HDL in treated patients



# Pharmacotherapy: Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists

## **Liraglutide and Semaglutide:**

- Decrease hunger by slowing gastric emptying and targeting satiety in brain
- FDA approved in children  $\geq 12$  years of age with obesity
- Adverse effects: nausea & vomiting

### **Liraglutide**

- Study demonstrated 4.5 kg body weight loss or 5% BMI reduction at 1 year

### **Semaglutide**

- Study demonstrated 16.1 % decrease in BMI at 68 weeks
- Cardiometabolic parameters improved: waist circumference, HbA1c, lipids

# Pharmacotherapy: Lisdexamfetamine

- Stimulant
- FDA approved for  $\geq 6$  years of age with ADHD and for binge eating in patients  $\geq 18$  years of age
- **Off label use** for children and adolescents who exhibit a loss of control with food
- No evidence available for efficacy in treatment of obesity

# Pharmacotherapy: Summary

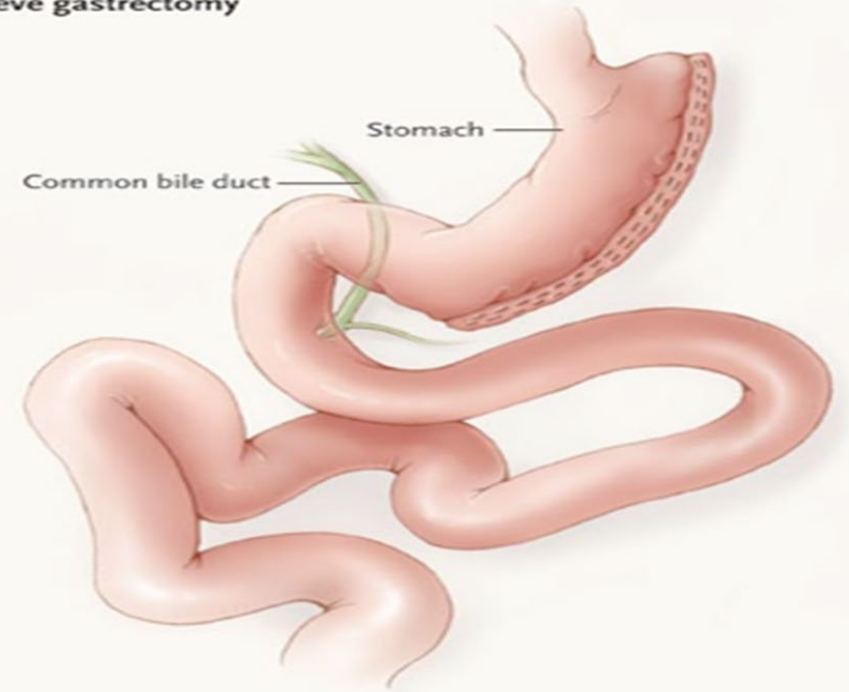
	FDA approval	Formulation	Contraindication	Barrier to use	Side Effects
Liraglutide	≥ 12 years	Daily injection	MTC, MEN	Insurance	N/V/D, abdominal pain
Semaglutide	≥ 12 years	Weekly injection	MTC, MEN	Insurance	N/V/D, abdominal pain
Phentermine & Topiramate	≥ 12 years	Daily oral medication	Glaucoma, hyperthyroidism	Insurance	Dizziness, paresthesia, blood pressure
Metformin	Off label	BID oral medication	Kidney disease	Side effects	Bloating, nausea, diarrhea, flatulence
Orlistat	≥ 12 years	TID with meals	Severe malabsorption, severe renal disease	Side effects, frequency of use	Steatorrhea, flatulence, fecal urgency

# KAS 13: Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (Grade C)

PHCPs should offer referral for adolescents  $\geq 13$  y with severe obesity (BMI  $\geq 120\%$  of the 95<sup>th</sup> %tile for age and sex) for:

- Evaluation for metabolic & bariatric surgery to local or regional comprehensive multidisciplinary pediatric metabolic & bariatric surgery centers

Sleeve gastrectomy



# Criteria for Pediatric Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

Weight Criteria	Criteria for Comorbid Conditions
<b>Class 2 obesity</b> (BMI $\geq 35$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> or 120% of the 95% for age and sex, whichever is lower)	Examples include but not limited to T2DM, IIH, NASH/NAFLD, OSA (AHI >5), Blount disease, SCFE, GERD, CVD risks (HTN, hyperlipidemia, insulin resistance), depressed health-related quality of life
<b>Class 3 obesity</b> (BMI $\geq 40$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> or 140% of the 95% for age and sex, whichever is lower)	Not required but commonly present

# Benefits of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

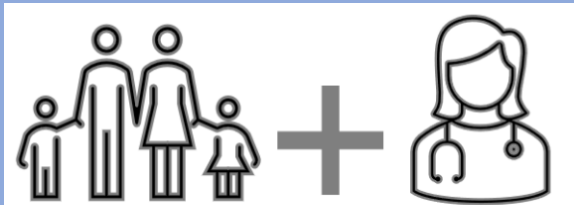
- Durable reduction in BMI
- Improvement or amelioration of obesity-related comorbidities including HTN, T2DM, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular risk factors, weight related quality of life
- Data suggests more likelihood of remission of T2DM or HTN in adolescents compared with adults undergoing bariatric surgery



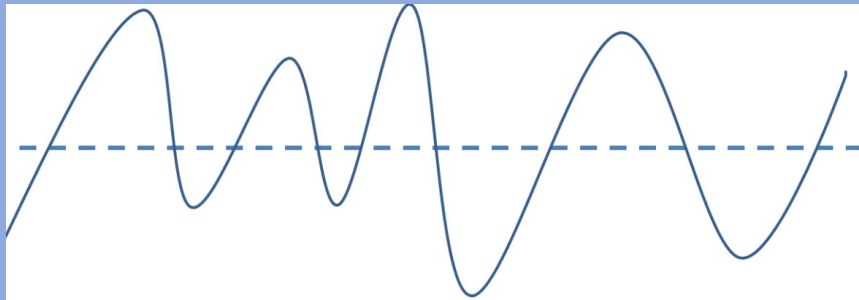
# Treatment of Obesity as a Chronic Disease

## Longitudinal Non-Stigmatizing Care: Coordinated Patient-Centered Treatment Across Lifespan

- Shared decision making with patient & family
- Culturally competent care
- Treatment coordinated in the medical home
- Transition planning



Patient & Family & PCP/PCHP Partnership



Treatment Intensity & support vary to address relapsing & remitting nature of obesity as a chronic disease

### Structural & Contextual Factors

#### That Impede & Influence Health & Treatment

- Access to Care
- Weight Bias & Stigma
- Obesogenic Environments

- Adverse Child Experiences
- Racism
- Health Inequities

# Treatment Take-Aways: “As soon as possible, as intensive as available”

## PCP PHCP Evidence-Based Toolbox

Motivational Interviewing



Intensive Health Behavior & Lifestyle Treatment



Pharmacotherapy



Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery



# AAP Implementation Support Websites



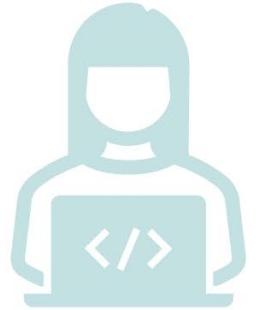
**Self-Paced CME  
Modules**



**Quality  
Improvement  
Opportunities**



**Clinical Decision  
Support Tools**



**Coding  
Reference  
Card**



**FHIR Resource**



**Multimedia  
Assets**



**Family  
Resources**

# Regional Pediatric Weight Management Programs

District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I.D.E.A.L Pediatric Weight Management Clinic: Children’s National Hospital</li><li>• Healthy Habits: Hospital for Sick Children</li><li>• FLiP Program: Children’s National Hospital</li></ul>
Maryland Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weight Management Program at Kennedy Krieger Institute (Lifestyle Group: Fit and Healthy Kids)</li><li>• Weight Smart: Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital</li><li>• ReNEW Clinic at Johns Hopkins University: treating pediatric hypertension</li></ul>
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NOVA Physician Wellness Center</li><li>• Children’s Fitness Clinic: UVA</li><li>• INOVA Childhood Obesity Prevention: Healthy Plate Club, Teen Cuisine</li><li>• Healthy Lifestyles Center: Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU</li></ul>
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weight Management: Nemour’s Children’s Health (DE, NJ, PA)</li></ul>
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy Weight Program: CHOP</li><li>• Healthy Weight Program for Children and Teens: Penn State Health Children’s Hospital</li><li>• Pediatric And Adolescent Weight Loss: Weight Loss Surgery and Wellness Center: Reading and Healthy Kids and Teens Weight Program at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children</li><li>• Weight Management and Wellness Center: Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh</li></ul>

	Regional Pediatric Bariatric Surgery Program
District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children’s National Hospital</li> </ul>
Maryland Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John’s Hopkins Bariatric Surgery Program</li> </ul>
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU</li> </ul>
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nemour’s Children’s Health (DE, NJ, PA)</li> </ul>
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penn Medicine, Philadelphia</li> <li>University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</li> </ul>

# How to Claim CME Credit:

1. Navigate here: <https://icmes.inova.org/>
2. Log in
3. Under Credits, click "Claim CME Activity Credits"
4. Search for and select "2023 Pediatric Health Network Adolescent Quality Improvement Initiative"
5. Click the "Claim" hyperlink next to the presentation title ("Pediatric Health Network Grand Rounds: New AAP Obesity Guidelines")
6. Complete the evaluation (if available) and click "Submit"

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