

Coding for Obesity Care in 15 Minutes or Less

Jan Blanchard
CPC, CPEDC, CPMA

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Disclaimer

The information presented is shared for the sole purpose of examining medical coding approaches and issues. Though every effort has been made to develop accurate materials, this guidance is informal and is not intended to be legal advice. Decisions relating to the management of your practice, coding your work, setting your fees, etc., should be made independently.

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Coding vs. Billing

Coding: Guidelines, Manuals
Coders can help

Billing: Payers, Feds, States
Billers can help

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AAP Guidelines

[Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity](#) (link)

Vignette #1: Well child+obesity (1 of 2)

- Well Care (9938_ / 9939_)
- Age appropriate screenings ([Periodicity Schedule](#))
- Labs: 36415, 99000 (In House lab: 80061 (82465-83718-84478))
- Obesity (E66._), BMI (Z68.5__), SDoH (Z55-Z65)
- Next slide for E&M...

Vignette #1: Well child+obesity (2 of 2)

Obesity managed, 9920X / 9921X w/complexity supported by documenting

- Chronic illness, exacerbation, side effects
 - Caregiver history
 - Labs ordered, reviewed for obesity
 - Risk of treatment, diagnostics
- OR
- Time spent assessing, managing problems (midnight to midnight)

Vignette #2: well + controlled obesity

- Well Care (9938_ / 9939_)
- Age appropriate screenings ([Periodicity Schedule](#))
- Obesity (E66._), BMI (Z68.5__), SDoH (Z55-Z65)
- No management, no E&M

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Vignette #3: Weight Management / Follow Up: Provider

- E&M / IHBLT
- Labs: 36415, 99000 (In House lab: 80061 (82465-83718-84478))
- Assessment tool eg Brenner FOT: 96160
- Obesity (E66._), BMI (Z68.5__), SDoH (Z55-Z65)

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Interventions - IHBLT

Intensive Health Behavior and Lifestyle Treatment Operational Tips:

- Initial Treatment Visit
 - At least 45-60 minute visit. (time-based) 99204-99205, 99215
 - Schedule within 1 month of well visit
- Ongoing Treatment Visit
 - At least 20-25 minute visit at least monthly 99213-99215
 - If IHBLT is external, E&M every 3 months or at midway & conclusion of program unless patient is on medication or has comorbid conditions

[AAP: Obesity Treatment & Approach in the Primary Care Office](#)

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Vignette #3: Weight Management / Follow Up: Dietitian

"Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention"

96156, 96158, 96159, 96164, 96165, 96167, 96168, 96170, 96171

"...assessments and interventions to improve the patient's health and well-being utilizing psychological and/or psychosocial interventions designed to ameliorate specific disease-related problems."

American Medical Association, CPT Professional 2023 and E/M Companion 2023 Bundle (p. 825), American Medical Association, Kindle Edition.

Vignette #4: Obesity + ...

Obesity + headaches, or + pcos, or + hip pain Is it a LEVEL 4? Maybe...

- 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; or
- 2 or more stable chronic illnesses; or
- 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; or
- 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; or
- 1 acute complicated injury

2023 E&M Coding Tool

TODAY'S PROBLEM LEVEL	TODAY'S DATA LEVEL	TODAY'S RISK LEVEL	TODAY'S VISIT
LEVEL: 2 3 4 5	LEVEL: 2 3 4 5	LEVEL: 2 3 4 5	LEVEL: 2 3 4 5
Number & Complexity of problems or issues	Amount and/or Complexity of Data	Risk of Complication	Final Level assigned, based on MOM or Total Time
LEVEL 2 1 undiagnosed new problem	LEVEL 2 Minimal data	LEVEL 2 Minimal risk	TOTAL TIME OR/OS
LEVEL 3 1 or more stable chronic problems, or 1 or more stable chronic problems with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute uncomplicated injury	LEVEL 3 One complexity measured 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute uncomplicated injury	LEVEL 3 Low risk	LEVEL 3 15-20 mins E01 - E02 20-25 mins E03 - E04
LEVEL 4 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute complicated injury	LEVEL 4 One complexity measured 2 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 3 or more stable chronic illnesses, or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute complicated injury	LEVEL 4 Moderate risk	LEVEL 4 25-30 mins E05 - E06 30-35 mins E07 - E08
LEVEL 5 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 3 or more stable chronic illnesses, or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute complicated injury	LEVEL 5 Two complexity measured 3 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 4 or more stable chronic illnesses, or 3 or more stable chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 2 or more stable chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or 1 or undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis, or 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or 1 acute complicated injury	LEVEL 5 High risk	LEVEL 5 35-45 mins E09 - E10 45-50 mins E11 - E12

Obesity Diagnoses

E66.01 Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories

E66.09 Other obesity due to excess calories

- exogenous, nutritional

E66.3 Overweight

E66.8 Other obesity

Body Mass Index

- Higher than 95th percentile is obese
- Not perfect, but best available
 - [BMI Calculator Child and Teen | Healthy Weight | CDC](#) (link)

BMI Pediatric: 2-19 years

Z68.5 Body mass index [BMI] pediatric

Z68.51 less than 5th percentile for age

Z68.52 5th percentile to less than 85th percentile for age

Z68.53 85th percentile to less than 95th percentile for age

Z68.54 greater than or equal to 95th percentile for age

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

Good plan requires whole picture:

- Where does family live?
- Socioeconomic status?
- Beliefs, daily life, school, ethnic background, and community connections?

[Harvard Health Blog\(link\)](#)

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SDoH Diagnoses - Problems Related to:

- Z55 ... education and literacy
- Z56 ... employment and unemployment
- Z57 Occupational exposure to risk factors
- Z58 ... physical environment
- Z59 ... housing and economic circumstances
- Z60 ... social environment

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SDoH Diagnoses - Problems Related to:

- Z62 ... upbringing
- Z63 Other problems related to primary support group, including family circumstances
- Z64 ... certain psychosocial circumstances
- Z65 ... other psychosocial circumstances

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Interventions

- Begin Eval & treatment at 2 yrs (was 6 yrs)
- Adolescents:
 - Weight-loss medication
 - Intensive lifestyle intervention
 - With severe obesity evaluate for metabolic or bariatric surgery

NY Prescription Health Matters

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Obesity Procedures

[BMI Calculator Child and Teen | Healthy Weight | CDC](#)

G0447 Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes

G0473 Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, group (2-10), 30 minutes

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Classes

99078 Physician or other qualified health care professional qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable) educational services rendered to patients in a group setting (eg, prenatal, obesity, or diabetic instructions)

American Medical Association. CPT Professional 2023 and E/M Companion 2023 Bundle (p. 850). American Medical Association. Kindle Edition.

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Classes

S9449 Weight management classes, non-physician provider, per session

S9452 Nutrition classes, non-physician provider, per session

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Nutrition Therapy

97802 Medical nutrition therapy; initial assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes

97803 ... re-assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes

97804 ... group, (2 or more individual(s)), each 30 minutes

American Medical Association, CPT Professional 2023 and E/M Companion 2023 Bundle (p. 843). American Medical Association. Kindle Edition.

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Nutrition Therapy

G0270 Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), individual, face to face with the patient, each 15 minutes

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Nutrition Therapy

G0271 Medical nutrition therapy, reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), group (2 or more individuals), each 30 minutes

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Noncompliance - Patient

Z91.11 Patient's noncompliance with dietary regimen

- **Z91.110** due to financial hardship
- **Z91.118** for other reason
- **Z91.119** due to unspecified reason

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Noncompliance - Caregiver

Z91.A1 Caregiver's noncompliance with patient's dietary regimen

- **Z91.A10** due to financial hardship
- **Z91.A18** for other reason

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What Questions Do You Have?

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Many Thanks!

Jan Blanchard, CPC, CPEDC, CPMA

jan@pcc.com

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