

# New ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes for Childhood Obesity

**Summary:** Effective October 1, 2024, new ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for adult and childhood obesity are available to use. ICD-10-CM codes are used to classify and diagnose disease processes and for disease management and billing purposes, as well as health services research.

The new codes represent a significant advancement in the accurate coding of obesity severity and align with the latest recommendations from professional societies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. The new codes aim to improve obesity care for patients of all ages.

## How the New Codes Help Providers and Patients

- **Improve Accuracy:** The previous ICD-10-CM codes did not accurately capture the different levels of obesity severity. The new codes provide a more precise way to classify obesity and reflect the latest guidelines and recommendations from professional societies.
- **Improve Coding Practice:** Obesity is currently under-coded in claims data. The new codes are intended to improve coding practices and the utility of claims data.
- **Enhance the Usefulness of Data:** The improved coding will improve understanding of the health care burden and medical expenditures associated with obesity and facilitate the identification of, and billing for, obesity in children.
- **Help Reduce Stigma and Bias:** Health care providers can play a role in reducing stigma by using accurate and clinically relevant terms. An example of this is using "Class 3 Obesity" instead of "morbid obesity due to excess calories." This helps create a more supportive environment for patients.

## How to Use the New Codes

To increase accuracy and available treatment options for children and adolescents with obesity, use the new E-codes (E66.811, E66.812, and E66.813) together with the new childhood Z-codes (Z68.54, Z68.55, and Z68.56).

New E-Codes	Obesity Severity Category	Childhood Z Codes (Pediatric BMI)	Corresponding BMI Age- and Gender-specific Percentiles
E66.811	Class 1 Obesity	Z68.54	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile to less than 120% of the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
E66.812	Class 2 Obesity	Z68.55	Greater than or equal to 120% of the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile to less than 140% of the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
E66.813	Class 3 Obesity	Z68.56	Greater than or equal to 140% of the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile

Note: E-codes focus on documenting external causes of diseases to identify patterns for prevention. Z-codes capture factors influencing health status or encounters beyond specific diseases.

## Next Steps for Providers

1. **Update Coding Practices:** Use the new Z-codes in combination with the new E-codes, in place of the older E-codes (replace E66.01, E66.09, E66.8, E66.0). Familiarize yourself with the new codes and ensure your Electronic Health Record (EHR) system is updated.
2. **Share With Your Team:** Share this information with your billing department and clinical staff.
3. **Talk to Your Patients:** Help reduce stigma and bias by using clinically relevant terms with your patients in conversations about growth and excess weight. Consider which treatment plans and resources can best support your patients according to their individual needs.

## Additional Resources

### CDC Links:

- [Extended BMI-for-age Growth Charts](#)
- [About obesity](#) page, which includes data maps, consequences of obesity, risk factors, and more.
- [Childhood obesity facts.](#)
- [Screening for child obesity.](#)
- [Health care strategies for child obesity.](#)
- [Family Healthy Weight Programs.](#)
- [ICD-10-CM](#)—search the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification for codes to classify medical diagnoses.

### Other Resources:

- [Weight bias and stigma](#) (University of Connecticut's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health)
- [Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Obesity](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)