

Risk Adjustment Coding Corner

Neighborhood News – October 2025

Obesity & BMI

- According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), nearly **3 in 4 adults aged 20 or older** in the United States are either overweight or have obesity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines **overweight** as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of **25-29.9**, **obesity** is defined as a BMI of **30 or higher**, and **morbid obesity** is defined as having a BMI of **40 or higher**.
- The American Hospital Association (AHA) Coding Clinic states that a diagnosis of **overweight, obesity, or morbid obesity** must be documented in order to report a code for BMI.
- Obesity and morbid obesity are always clinically significant and should be documented. In risk adjustment, **morbid obesity can affect risk score calculations**.
- In the **October 2024 ICD-10-CM update**, new codes were introduced to more accurately reflect adult obesity severity and reduce weight stigma. These include:
 - **E66.811**: Class 1 - BMI of 30 to less than 35.
 - **E66.812**: Class 2 - BMI range of 35 to less than 40.
 - **E66.813**: Class 3 - BMI range of 40 or greater.

References

- [Overweight and Obesity \(NIH\)](#)
- [Overweight and Obesity Statistics \(NIH\)](#)
- [New Adult Obesity ICD-10-CM Codes \(CDC\)](#)
- AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Fourth Quarter 2018

We want to hear from you!

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island welcomes your input for future Risk Adjustment Coding Corner topics. What would you like to learn more about? Please send any suggestions, feedback, or questions to RiskAdjustment@nhpri.org.