

## Billing Codes and Strategies

Reimbursement for obesity management depends on successfully medicalizing the disease of obesity.

Obesity does not have to be defined as the primary diagnosis; in fact, a more successful strategy is to use billing codes for relevant obesity complications or related comorbidities.

	ICD-10 Code		ICD-10 Code
Obesity*	278.00	Morbid obesity (BMI >35 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	E66.01

\*Rarely reimbursed.

Structurally Related Conditions	ICD-10 Code	Cardiometabolically Related Conditions	ICD-10 Code
Osteoarthritis	M15.0	Metabolic syndrome	E88.81
Sleep apnea	G47.3	Impaired fasting glucose	R73.01
GERD	K21.9	Prediabetes	R73.09
		Diabetes	E11.8, E11.9
		Hyperlipidemia	E78.2, E78.5
		Dyslipidemia	E78.5
		Hypertension	I10

## EM Codes

Most visits for obesity will be treated as a level 3 (99213; usually 15-20 minutes).

Visits with moderate to high medical decision making may be coded as a level 4 (99214; usually ≥25 minutes). For instance, a level 4 visit would be a long one in which over half the time is spent discussing treatment, including

- Diet advice
- Exercise prescription
- Behavior modification
- Medication recommendations, including benefits, limitations, and risks
- Benefits, limitations, and risks of surgical interventions

