

## Coding for BMI Percentile

The American Academy of Pediatrics has identified **childhood obesity** as one of the **most serious health issues** of our time, both for morbidity during childhood and implications for health problems as an adult.

CCNC & DMA encourage all Primary Care Clinicians who care for children and/or adults to **measure BMI percentile & provide counseling regarding nutrition, physical activity, and lifestyle**:

- Measurement and follow-up of BMI percentile is a HEDIS measure for quality of care
  - In December of 2009, AHRQ included BMI percentile measurement in its set of 24 child health indicators for state Medicaid and CHIP programs
- Measurement of BMI percentile is a **meaningful use core measure**

In order to measure documentation rates of BMI percentile as part of CCNC Quality Measures and Feedback, a claims measure for BMI percentile needs to be used. For children, ages 2 to 21 years old, there are Z codes associated BMI percentile ranges that can be used for every well-visit claim:

Z68.51	<5%ile	Underweight
Z68.52	5-85%ile	Healthy Weight
Z68.53	85-95%ile	Overweight
Z68.54	≥95%ile	Obese
Z71.3	Dietary surveillance & counseling	
Z71.82	Exercise counseling	

To promote quality of care and to achieve all the advantages noted above:

- Coding of BMI percentile
  - Using appropriate Z codes
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- Will become a routine part of coding for EPSDT visits (age 2 yrs & up)

At the practice level, this data could be used to identify children with overweight and/or obesity to do targeted interventions.

At the well-visit, document Z00.121+ (w/abnormal findings) or Z00.129 (w/o abnormal findings) **AND** a BMI %ile Z-code **AND** Z-codes for nutrition and physical activity counseling.

### Other dx codes for well or follow-up visits:

E66.9 Obesity >95%ile  
 E66.3 Overweight >85-94%ile  
 R63.5 Abnormal weight gain

### Other nutritional related billable codes:

R62.51 Failure to Thrive  
 R63.3 Feeding Problems NOS  
 F98.29 Other feeding disorders of infancy and early childhood  
 R63.6 Underweight  
 D50.8 Iron deficiency Anemia