

BENEFIT COVERAGE POLICY

Title: BCP-60 Weight Management Services

Effective Date: 04/01/2020



Physicians Health Plan
PHP Insurance Company
PHP Service Company

Important Information - Please Read Before Using This Policy

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by PHP and may not be covered by all PHP plans. Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's benefit document, the member's benefit document will be used to determine coverage. For example, a member's benefit document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

Coverage determinations for individual requests require consideration of:

- The terms of the applicable benefit document in effect on the date of service.
- Any applicable laws and regulations.
- Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies.
- The specific facts of the particular situation.

Contact PHP Customer Service to discuss plan benefits more specifically.

1.0 Policy:

Health Plan covers weight management services. Coverage is determined by the type of service performed (e.g., lab, office visit, nutritional counseling, behavioral health, etc.).

- A. Weight management services for treatment of obesity or eating disorders (e.g., anorexia, bulimia, binge-eating).
1. Generally described as a two-part process:
 - a. Assessment, including BMI measurement and risk factor identification; and
 - b. Treatment/management.
 2. Obesity management includes primary weight loss, prevention of weight re-gains and the management of associated health risks. During the assessment phase, the individual needs to be prepared for the comprehensive nature of the program, including realistic timelines and goals.
 3. Clinical supervision is an essential component of dietary management. Physicians can also provide clinical oversight and monitoring of what are often complex co-morbid conditions and can select the optimal and most medically appropriate weight management, nutritional and exercise strategies.
 4. Guidelines for coverage of a Weight Management Program:
 - a. A medically supervised weight management program must be provided by a network provider.
 - b. Covered health services include laboratory, EKG, physician office visits, and psychological testing. Food and vitamin supplements are not a covered benefit.
 - c. The Weight Management Program must utilize a multidisciplinary approach, including but not limited to services received from a:
 - i. Physician.

- ii. Dietitian.
- iii. Social worker (MSW).
- iv. Psychologist or psychiatrist interested in behavioral modification and eating disorders.

2.0 Background:

Under the medical benefit, Health Plan covers certain weight management health care services that meet established criteria, supported by clinical evidence, and national standards or guidelines.

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), “frequent clinical encounters during the initial six months of weight reduction appear to facilitate reaching the goals of therapy. During the period of active weight loss, regular visits of at least once per month and preferably more often with a health care professional for the purposes of reinforcement, encouragement, and monitoring facilitate weight reduction” (NHLBI, 1998).

Obesity and overweight are defined clinically using the body mass index (BMI). BMI is an objective measurement and is currently considered the most reproducible measurement of total body fat. The NHLBI defines the following classifications as shown in the table below based on BMI. The NHLBI recommends that the BMI should be used to classify overweight and obesity and to estimate relative risk for disease compared to normal weight.

| Classification | BMI (kg/m²) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Underweight | < 18.5 |
| Normal weight | 18.5–24.9 |
| Overweight | 25–29.9 |
| Obesity (Class 1) | 30–34.9 |
| Obesity (Class 2) | 35–39.9 |
| Extreme Obesity (Class 3) | ≥ 40 |

3.0 Clinical Determination Guidelines:

None.

4.0 Coding

Prior Approval Legend: Y = All lines of business; N = None required; 1 = HMO/POS; 2 = EPO/PPO; 3 = ASO group L0000264; 4 = ASO group L0001269 Non-Union & Union; 5 = ASO group L0001631; 6 = ASO group L0002011; 7 = ASO group L0001269 Union Only.

| COVERED CODES | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Code | Description | Prior Approval | COC Reference |
| 99201-99215 | Outpatient evaluation and management / office or other outpatient services | N | Benefits and Coverage; Physician’s Office Services – Sickness or Injury, Professional Fees for Surgical and Medical Services, Weight Management Services |
| 97802 | Medical nutrition therapy; initial assessment and intervention, individual face-to-face with the patient, each 15 | N | Benefits and Coverage; Physician’s Office Services – Sickness or |

| COVERED CODES | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Code | Description | Prior Approval | COC Reference |
| | minutes | | Injury, Weight Management Services |
| 97803 | Medical nutrition therapy; re-assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes | N | Benefits and Coverage; Physician's Office Services – Sickness or Injury, Weight Management Services |
| 97804 | Medical nutrition therapy; group (2 or more individual(s)), each 30 minutes | N | Benefits and Coverage; Physician's Office Services – Sickness or Injury, Weight Management Services |
| G0447 | Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes | N | Benefits and Coverage; Preventive Health Services |
| G0473 | Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, group (2-10), 30 minutes | N | Benefits and Coverage; Preventive Health Services |
| S9449 | Weight management classes, non-physician provider, per session | N | Benefits and Coverage; Weight Management Services |
| S9452 | Nutrition classes, non-physician provider, per session | N | Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Therapeutic Treatment Services, Weight Management Services |
| S9470 | Nutritional counseling, dietitian visit | N | Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Therapeutic Treatment Services, Weight Management Services |

| ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CODES | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Code | Description |
| E66.01 | Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories |
| E66.09 | Other obesity due to excess calories |
| E66.3 | Overweight |
| E66.9 | Obesity, unspecified |
| E67.8 | Other specified hyperalimentation |
| F50.00 – F50.9 | Eating disorders (e.g., anorexia, bulimia) |
| R62.51 | Failure to thrive (child) |
| R63.6 | Underweight |
| Z68.1 | Body mass index (BMI) 19.9 or less, adult |
| Z68.2 | Body mass index (BMI) 20 - 29, adult |
| Z68.41 – Z68.45 | Body mass index (BMI) 40.0 or greater, adult |

| ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CODES | |
|------------------------|--|
| Code | Description |
| Z68.51 – Z68.54 | Body mass index (BMI) pediatric, less than 5 th percentile for age – greater than or equal to 95 th percentile for age |

| NON-COVERED CODES | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Code | Description | COC Reference/Reason |
| 94690 | Oxygen uptake, expired gas analysis; rest, indirect (separate procedure) | Experimental/ investigational/ unproven |
| 99071 | Educational supplies, such as books, tapes, and pamphlets, provided by the physician for the patient's education at cost to physician | Specific exclusion |
| S9451 | Exercise classes, non-physician provider, per session | Specific exclusion |

5.0 Unique Configuration/Prior Approval/Coverage Details:

Some PPO plans only cover as a rider.

6.0 Terms & Definitions:

Anorexia nervosa – an eating disorder characterized by an abnormally low body weight, an intense fear of gaining weight and a distorted perception of weight that can lead to life-threatening ways to try and cope with emotional problems.

Body Mass Index (BMI) – weight in kilograms/the square of the height in meters.

Bulimia – an emotional disorder involving distortion of body image and an obsessive desire to lose weight, where bouts of extreme overeating are followed by depression and self-induced vomiting, purging, or fasting.

Morbid obesity – Body Mass Index (BMI) > 40 Kg/m² (weight in kilograms/the square of the height in meters).

Severe obesity – Body Mass Index (BMI) = or > 35 and < 40 Kg/m² (weight in kilograms/the square of the height in meters).

Conversions:

- To convert pounds to kilograms, multiply pounds by 0.45.
- To convert inches to meters, multiple inches by 0.0254.
- To calculate BMI: http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/lose_wt/BMI/bmicalc.htm.

7.0 References, Citations & Resources:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Overweight and Obesity, 11/29/2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/>.
2. NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Overweight and Obesity, 11/16/2015. <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/overweight-and-obesity>.
3. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Health Information for the Public/ Educational Campaigns & Programs/ Aim for a Healthy Weight/ Healthy Weight Tools/ BMI Calculator.

8.0 Associated Documents:

See Drug Benefit Determination Policy DDP-25 "Weight Loss Medications" for coverage criteria and covered medications.

9.0 Revision History:

Original Effective Date: 04/01/2020

Next Revision Date: 04/01/2021

| Revision Date | Reason for Revision |
|----------------------|--|
| March 2018 | Morbid Obesity Weight Management policy archived Dec. 2016. New policy specific to weight management services created. |
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