



Western Australian Coding Rule

1218/04 Adult underweight

Q.

What is the correct code assignment for adults who are “underweight”, where:

- underweight meets ACS 0002 *Additional diagnosis* criteria for code assignment
- underweight is not a manifestation of another condition such as
 - loss of appetite (R63.0 *Anorexia*),
 - loss of weight (R63.4 *Abnormal weight loss*) or a
 - wasting syndrome/adult failure to thrive (R64 *Cachexia*)

A.

The ACCD provided the following advice, which will not be published nationally:

Underweight is defined as weight below normal, average or requisite. Underweight is not the same as cachexia which is defined as general physical wasting and malnutrition usually associated with chronic disease (Merriam-Webster Medical Dictionary, 2018).

Where there is documentation of ‘underweight’ NOS (not otherwise specified) in an adult, that meets the criteria in ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis* or ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*, assign R62.8 *Other lack of expected normal physiological development*.

Follow the Alphabetical Index:
Underweight R62.8

DECISION

Where there is documentation of ‘underweight’ NOS (not otherwise specified) in an adult, that meets the criteria in ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis* or ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*, assign R62.8 *Other lack of expected normal physiological development*.

[Effective 01 Jan 2019, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10th Ed.]

References:

Merriam-Webster medical dictionary, 2018, underweight, viewed 15 March 2018, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/underweight>

Merriam-Webster medical dictionary, 2018, cachexia, viewed 15 March 2018, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cachexia>