

****The criteria provided below is representative of what is commonly accepted by certain payers and is not all inclusive, nor is it a guarantee a particular code will be supported by a payer.**

Malnutrition Criteria		Findings	Documentation Source (i.e., H&P, Consult)
Moderate (non-severe)	Severe		
Age-based BMI			
<20 (<70) / <22 (≥70)	<18.5 (<70) / <20(≥70)		
Physical characteristics			
Undernourished	Cachectic / emaciated		
Moderate muscle atrophy/loss	Severe muscle atrophy/loss		
Moderate fat tissue atrophy/loss	Severe fat tissue atrophy/loss		
Weight Loss			
>2.5% in 1 month	>5% in 1 month		
5-7.5% in 3-6 months	>7.5% in 3-6 months		
7.5-10% in 6-12 months	>10% in 6-12 months		
10-20% >12 months	>20% >12 months		
Edema in lieu of weight loss			
Moderate	Severe		
Hand Grip Strength			
N/A	Reduced		
Lab results			
CRP elevated	CRP elevated		
SIRS	SIRS		
Albumin/pre-albumin = <5.0/<2.0	Albumin/pre-albumin = <10.0/<5.0		
Other supporting evidence			
Social/environmental (S/E) vulnerability*			
Unsupervised nutritional supplements 1-2 daily	Supervised nutritional supplements 2-3 daily		
Significant chronic illness	Serious, life-threatening conditions		
Acute illness or injury > 1 week	Cancer / chemotherapy		
Significant chronic GI disorders	Severe, uncontrolled GI disorders		
-	NG-tube / gastrostomy feeding		
-	TPN		
-	Appetite stimulants (Megestrol)		