



ESPE FACT SHEETS

A NEW ICD-11 CODE FOR UNDERNUTRITION IN ADULTS

5B72: Undernutrition in Adults, starting from 2027

WHAT IS ICD-11?

International Classification of Diseases (ICD) by WHO is the global framework for classifying diseases and health conditions.

WHY ICD-11 NEEDS

A CODE FOR UNDERNUTRITION?

Until now, **ICD-11 (replacing ICD-10)** had no code relevant to undernutrition in adults.



In 2020, the **Swedish ICD Office at the National Board of Health and Welfare**, supported by >40 **Nutrition Societies** and inspired by the GLIM diagnostic model, submitted a proposal to WHO for an **adult undernutrition code**. In collaboration with the global clinical nutrition community, the WHO ICD group developed the **new code 5B72**, finalized in October 2025 and active from 2027.

HOW WILL THE NEW CODE BE USED?

The Undernutrition in Adults diagnosis code (5B72) requires **assessment of two etiologic and three phenotypic criteria**, with the **diagnosis confirmed when at least one etiologic and one phenotypic criterion are fulfilled**

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



Until 2027, the global clinical nutrition community has the opportunity to campaign, inform and prepare for the introduction of the new code.

5B72 UNDERNUTRITION IN ADULTS

When undernutrition is confirmed by the presence of a combination of **phenotypic criteria**; e.g. unintentional weight loss or low body mass index or low muscle mass **, and **etiologic criteria**; e.g. reduced food intake (e.g. poor appetite) and/or assimilation (e.g. digestive or absorption disorders) or presence of disease, injury or infection with chronic, relapsing or acute severe inflammation.

PHENOTYPIC CRITERIA



Unintentional weight loss



Low body mass index



Low muscle mass

ETIOLOGIC CRITERIA



Reduced food intake and/or assimilation



Presence of disease, injury or infection with chronic, relapsing or acute severe inflammation

5B72.0 Undernutrition in adults related to disease with moderate to severe inflammation

When undernutrition is confirmed by...see above**, and the presence of disease, injury or infection with chronic, relapsing or acute severe inflammation as the major etiologic criterion

5B72.1 Undernutrition in adults related to disease with non-discernible inflammation

When undernutrition is confirmed by...see above**, and reduced food intake (e.g. poor appetite) and/or assimilation (e.g. digestive or absorption disorder) usually due to disease as the major etiologic criterion.

5B72.2 Undernutrition in adults related to starvation

When undernutrition is confirmed by...see above**, that is related to reduced food intake due to hunger or food shortage associated with socio-economic or environmental factors.

Post-coordination for all codes:
XS0T Moderate XS25 Severe