

Gastro-Intestinal Disorders

Definition/ cut-off value

Disease(s) or condition(s) that interferes with the intake or absorption of nutrients. The conditions include, but are not limited to:

- C stomach or intestinal ulcers
- C small bowel enterocolitis and syndrome
- C malabsorption syndromes
- C inflammatory bowel disease, including ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease
- C liver disease
- C pancreatitis
- C gallbladder disease
- C gastroesophageal reflux (GER)

Presence of gastro-intestinal disorders diagnosed by a physician as self reported by applicant/participant/caregiver; or as reported or documented by a physician, or someone working under physician's orders.

Participant category and priority level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	I
Breastfeeding Women	I
Non-Breastfeeding Women	III
Infants	I
Children	III

Justification

Gastrointestinal disorders increase nutrition risk through a number of ways, including impaired food intake, abnormal deglutition, impaired digestion of food in the intestinal lumen, generalized or specific nutrient malabsorption, or excessive gastrointestinal losses of endogenous fluids and nutrients. Frequent loss of nutrients through vomiting, diarrhea, malabsorption, or infections can result in malnourishment and lowered resistance to disease in individuals with chronic symptoms.

Clarifications/ Guidelines

Before assigning this risk code, be sure the specific gastro-intestinal disorder is documented on the health history form.

Self-reporting of a diagnosis by a medical professional should not be confused with self-diagnosis, where a person simply claims to have or to have had a medical condition without any reference to professional diagnosis. A self-reported medical diagnosis ("My doctor says that I have/my son or daughter has...") should prompt the CA to validate the presence of the condition by asking more pointed questions related to that diagnosis.

References

1. Institute of Medicine: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment; 1996; pp. 166-167.
2. American Dietetic Association: Pediatric Manual of Clinical Dietetics; 1998; pp. 235-237.