The following guideline recommends specific interventions for treatment of overweight and obese conditions in adults.

**Eligible Population**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Adults 18 years or older</th>
<th>Assessment of Body Mass Index (BMI1)</th>
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**Key Components**

- Screen to establish a diagnosis of overweight or obesity by calculating body mass index (BMI1) and document the presence of overweight or obesity in the medical record.
- If overweight, assess for complicating risk factors:
  - Hypertension
  - High triglycerides, high LDL or low HDL
  - Impaired fasting glucose
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Smoking
  - Sleep Apnea
  - Family history of premature CHD
  - Presence of atherosclerotic disease
- Assess current eating, exercise behaviors, history of weight loss attempts and psychosocial factors or medications that contribute to weight gain2.

**Recommendation and Level of Evidence**

- Help your patients establish their own realistic and specific lifestyle goals:
  - Offer comprehensive lifestyle intervention to achieve weight loss and to improve patient-specific risks such as blood pressure and/or glucose control. [A]
  - Promote an evidence-based diet that produces a caloric deficit and takes patient preferences into account. [A]
  - Plan to reduce caloric intake to achieve a 5% to 10% reduction in body weight over 6 months.
  - Counsel to increase physical activity, combined with decreased dietary intake, to produce a caloric deficit leading to weight loss. [A]
  - Address psychosocial concerns that may impact weight and stigma associated with the term "obesity." Recommend referral to National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) or Medicare DPP for individuals with prediabetes.

**Patients with BMI1 ≥ 25**

- Interventions to promote weight management

**Patients with BMI1 ≥ 30 or ≥ 27 with other risk factors or diseases**

- Interventions to promote weight management

**BMI1 > 40 or ≥ 35 with uncontrolled comorbid conditions3**

- Surgical treatment

**Interventions to promote weight management**

- Consider referral to intensive, multicomponent behavioral interventions to promote improvement in weight status3. [A]
- Review the patient's medications to consider changing any weight-potentiating medications2 to those that are either weight-neutral or weight-negative. [D]
- Consider pharmacotherapy only for patients with increased medical risk because of their weight who fail intensive lifestyle changes alone. [D]
- Pharmacotherapy is more effective when used along with intensive lifestyle changes. [A]

**BMI1 > 40 or ≥ 35 with uncontrolled comorbid conditions3**

- Weight loss surgery should be considered when other methods of treatment have failed and for patients who have clinically severe obesity, i.e., BMI ≥ 40 or BMI ≥ 35 with serious, obesity-related life-threatening comorbid conditions4. [A]
- Evaluate for psychological readiness for surgical intervention and post-surgical lifestyle commitment.

**Levels of Evidence for the most significant recommendations:**

- A = randomized controlled trials; B = controlled trials, no randomization; C = observational studies; D = opinion of expert panel

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1. BMI is an accurate proxy for body fat in average adults but may be misleading in muscular individuals and the elderly. Lower BMI thresholds are used to classify overweight (BMI 23-27.5 kg/m2) and obese (BMI ≥27.5 kg/m2) individuals of Asian and South Asian descent.
2. Weight gain may be associated with medications: certain anti-hyperglycemic agents, SSRI, tricyclic antidepressants, atypical antipsychotics, beta-blockers and corticosteroids.
4. Serious comorbidities including: Cardiac disease (CHD, pulmonary hypertension, congestive heart failure, and cardiomyopathy); type 2 diabetes; obstructive sleep apnea and other respiratory disease (chronic asthma); hypoventilation syndrome (Pickwickian syndrome); non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or steatohepatitis; pseudo-tumor cerebri; hypertension; hyperlipidemia; severe joint or disc disease if interferes with daily functioning.

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**Preventive Services Task Force Obesity Screening and Counseling: Adults, June 2012; and 2013 AHA/ACC/TOS Guideline for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Adults: A Report of the ACC/AHA Task Force on Practice Guidelines and The Obesity Society. Individual patient considerations and advances in medical science may supersede or modify these recommendations.**


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