

**153**  
**Large for Gestational Age**

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**Definition/  
cut-off value**

Birth weight greater than or equal to 9 pounds (greater than or equal to 4000 g); or

Presence of large for gestational age 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.

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**Participant  
category and  
priority level**

**Category**

**Priority**

Infants

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**Justification**

Infant mortality rates are higher among full-term infants who weigh greater than 4,000 g (greater than 9 lbs) than for infants weighing between 3,000 and 4,000 g (6.6 and 8.8 lbs). Oversized infants are usually born at term; however, preterm infants with weights high for gestational age also have significantly higher mortality rates than infants with comparable weights born at term. When large for gestational occurs with pre-term birth, the mortality risk is higher than when either condition exists alone (1). Very large infants regardless of their gestational age, have a higher incidence of birth injuries and congenital anomalies (especially congenital heart disease) and developmental and intellectual retardation (2).

Large for Gestational Age may be a result of maternal diabetes (which may or may not have been diagnosed before or during pregnancy) and may result in obesity in childhood that may extend into adult life (1).

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**References**

1. Institute of Medicine. WIC nutrition risk criteria a scientific assessment. Washington (DC): National Academy Press; 1996. p. 117.
  2. Behrman RE, Kliegman R, Jenson HB. Nelson textbook of pediatrics. Philadelphia (PA): Saunders; 2000. p. 384.
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**Clarification**

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 CPA to validate the presence of the condition by asking more pointed questions related to that diagnosis.

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