

# 153 Large for Gestational Age

## Definition/Cut-off Value

Birth weight  $\geq$  9 pounds ( $\geq$  4000 g); or

Presence of large for gestational age. Presence of condition diagnosed, documented, or reported by a physician or someone working under a physician's orders, or as self reported by applicant/participant/caregiver. See Clarification for more information about self-reporting a diagnosis.

## Participant Category and Priority Level

Category	Priority
Infants	I

## 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).

## 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.

## 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.