* Retinopathy code list had already been created by the department
* So I tried to categorize these into severe and non-severe
  + Originally wanted to have an “unspecified” category but it became quite hard to establish what wasn’t specific enough
  + So settled instead on just having the severe and non-severe categories with anything unspecific included in the non-severe category
* Initially I modelled my severe and non-severe categories on this paper: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5337737/>
  + This paper defined severe retinopathy as anything pertaining to proliferative or advanced retinopathy or relating to laser therapy
    - I therefore filtered the code list by those terms
    - Making sure to filter out anything relating to pre-proliferative or non-proliferative
  + Visually inspecting the already created retinopathy code list and this paper’s code list made me question some of the decisions
    - E.g., they had included a code with “prolif.” in the non-severe category which was odd
    - E.g., In our retinopathy code list there was a code with “sight-threatening” in the term which certainly feels like a severe form of retinopathy, especially because when sight is threatened, laser therapy is usually offered/suggested
    - E.g., also in our retinopathy code list there were a fair few codes that were not related to proliferative retinopathy but still said “severe” or “very severe”
  + Also interestingly, the report (<https://media.rnib.org.uk/documents/Diabetic_eye_disease._A_UK_Incidence_and_Prevalence_Study_-_Full_report.pdf>) that used the same data varied slightly in its definitions – it included preproliferative as a severe type of retinopathy
* These issues prompted me to do some further literature searching to see if I could find anything relating to classifying severe and non-severe
* I didn’t find any papers that explicitly categorized their own code list in terms of severe or non-severe retinopathy however, one paper which was useful was this one: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12916-021-01966-x>
  + In the first paragraph of the introduction this paper suggests that sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy includes severe non-proliferative retinopathy, and proliferative retinopathy
  + Again, sight-threatening is probably severe, so I decided to include codes that included the term “severe” in the severe code list
* In the end, my severe code list were codes that included or related to the following terms:
  + Proliferative retinopathy
  + Advanced retinopathy
  + Laser therapy
  + Severe/very severe non-proliferative/pre-proliferative
  + Sight-threatening