

Minimum Criteria for Weighing Equipment

Equipment for measuring weight should be constructed of durable, easy to clean materials with no sharp edges or unfinished parts. Beam balance scales with non-detachable weights, preferably without built-in measuring rods, are recommended for routine clinic use. A good quality electronic scale may be satisfactory. Spring balance scales, such as bathroom scales, are not recommended as over time the spring counter balance mechanism loses its accuracy.

A scale must have an adjustment mechanism so it can be balanced at zero with a provision for immobilizing the zeroing weight, a screw type is preferred. Digital or electronic scales should have automatic-zero, automatic-tare and lock in weight features. In addition to this general criteria, specific criteria must be met for recumbent and standing scales.

A. Equipment for Measuring Weight - Recumbent

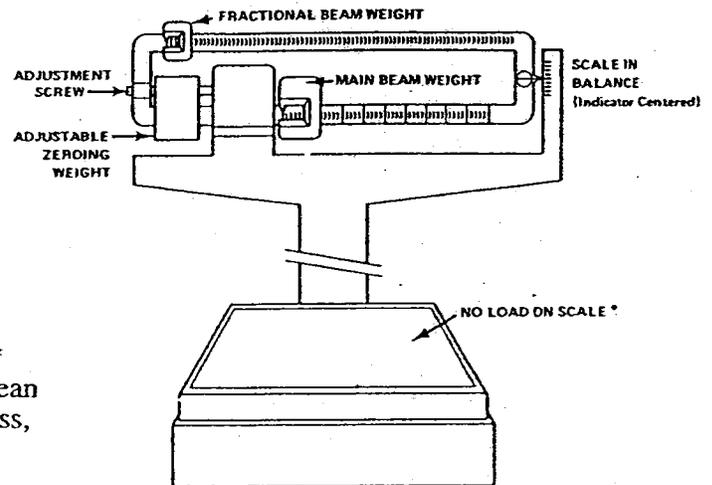
Table model scale for ages birth to 2 years*

1. Adequate infant tray that is sturdy and easy to clean
2. Scale marked in increments 1 ounce or less, accurate to this degree
3. Capacity of at least 35 pounds

B. Equipment for Measuring Weight - Standing

Floor model scale for ages 2 years and older**

1. Adequate platform that is sturdy and easy to clean
2. Scale marked in increments of 1/4 pound or less, accurate to this degree
3. Capacity of at least 300 pounds

**C. Maintenance of Weighing Equipment**

1. The zero balance should be checked before every clinic session, routinely in the clinic and after the scale has been moved.
2. The accuracy should be checked routinely in clinic and professionally.
 - a. Routine clinic maintenance - All scales should be tested by weighing a number of weights on a regular basis. A set of certified calibrated (standard) weights are needed for this task. An adequate scale should be equally accurate with a 10 pound or a 60 pound load.
 - b. Professional Service - Scales should be calibrated by vendors, at least annually, through the full range of weight that the scale measures. A vendor selling and repairing scales will calibrate the scales and sell standard weights for routine office checks. Most vendors offer a service contract for regular annual / semi-annual scale checkups upon request. These vendors should be registered with the State Department of Weights and Measures.

* Some children 18 months to 2 years may be exceptions

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