Medical and Physician Scales

A medical scale is a weighing instrument designed for patient use — physician beam scales, digital platform scales, wheelchair ramp scales, bariatric and infant scales — with wide platforms, handrails, hold functions for unstable loads and built-in BMI calculation.

Medical scale selection

Application	Typical capacity	Typical readability	Notes
Physician office, ambulatory	500 lb	0.2 lb	Beam or digital with height rod
Wheelchair patients	800–1,000 lb	0.2 lb	Ramp platform, chair tare
Bariatric care	1,000 lb	0.2 lb	Wide low-profile base, handrail
Pediatrics and neonatal	44 lb / 20 kg	0.1 oz / 2 g	Tray with motion averaging

Certification and compliance

- Authorized A&D Weighing dealer. Sold as an authorized dealer since 1998, so every unit carries the full manufacturer warranty and factory firmware — not grey-market stock.
- NIST-traceable calibration certificate. Any instrument can ship with a calibration certificate produced in our Cypress, Texas lab using mass standards traceable to NIST, with as-found and as-left values recorded.
- In-house repair & on-site service. Factory-trained technicians repair, adjust and re-certify weighing equipment in our own Texas workshop and on-site across the Houston metro.

Specification checklist

- Motion tolerance. A hold/average function is what makes a clinical reading repeatable.
- Platform and handrail. Stability determines both safety and reading quality.
- BMI and height rod. Removes a manual calculation step from the intake workflow.
- EMR connectivity. Serial, USB or wireless output where weights post to the patient record.
- Documented verification. Annual check against certified weights, with records for accreditation.

Frequently asked questions

How accurate are medical scales?

Clinical digital scales typically display 0.2 lb increments and repeat within one increment for a still patient. Motion is the dominant error source, which is why hold/averaging functions matter.

Do medical scales need to be legal for trade?

No — patient weighing is not a commercial transaction by weight. Accreditation programs do, however, generally require documented periodic verification against certified test weights.

What is a wheelchair scale?

A low-profile ramp platform that weighs a patient in their chair, with a tare function that subtracts the stored chair weight to report patient weight directly.

How often should clinic scales be calibrated?

At least annually with NIST-traceable certified weights, plus after any relocation or repair. Keep the certificate for accreditation records.

Terminology

Accuracy	How close a displayed weight is to the sample's true mass. Accuracy is limited by readability, repeatability and linearity together, so a scale can never be more accurate than its specification sheet's worst of those three figures.
Calibration	Adjusting a scale's span so it reads a certified test weight correctly, documented with as-found and as-left values. Distinct from verification, which records a reading without changing anything.
Capacity	The maximum mass a scale is rated to weigh. Usable capacity is the rated capacity minus every container, fixture or platform that sits on the pan, because tare does not add capacity back.
Division (d)	The smallest increment the display can change by, also called readability or scale interval. A 1200 g x 0.01 g balance has a 0.01 g division and 120,000 divisions across its range.
Linearity	The maximum deviation from a straight line between zero and full capacity, expressed in divisions. A balance can be perfectly repeatable and still be non-linear, which is why calibration is checked at more than one point.
NIST traceable	A calibration performed with standards whose values link through an unbroken chain of comparisons, each with stated uncertainty, back to national standards held by NIST.
Readability	The smallest increment a display can show. Readability is not accuracy: it sets the finest digit you can read, while accuracy also depends on repeatability and linearity.
Repeatability	The standard deviation of repeated weighings of the same load under identical conditions, quoted in grams or divisions. It sets the practical floor on how small a difference you can trust.

EK1200i.com — authorized A&D Weighing dealer since 1998. Calibration, repair and application support from Cypress, Texas.
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