

Selecting Medical Supplies and Equipment

Policy

Iowa Administrative Code:

- a. Medical equipment used in conducting WIC clinics shall be subject to approval by the department.
- b. Standards for conducting the medical and nutritional assessments on WIC program applicants shall be described in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.
- c. Medical equipment shall be recalibrated in accord with procedures outlined in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

Authority

Iowa Administrative Code: 641-73.6(135) - 73.6(4)

Procedures

Medical equipment purchased by WIC agencies must meet standards established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This section provides selection criteria for specific equipment.

Scales

Scales must be:

- Adjustable back to zero
- Accurate and both ends of range
- Able to reproduce weights to within 10 grams
- Durable and easy to maintain
- Pediatric scales must be accurate to within 0.5 ounces and adult scales must be accurate to within 4 ounces
- All scales whether digital or mechanical need to be checked at least once a year to make sure they are accurate.
 - Digital scales need to be calibrated by a trained scale technician.
 - Upright balance beam scales must be calibrated on-site because shipping upsets the calibration.
 - Local scale companies and some hospitals provide service for upright and portable balance beam scales.
 - Scale companies will sometimes service portable scales purchased from them. The cost may vary depending on whether your agency has a service agreement, and whether the scales are calibrated on-site or shipped.
 - A set of test weights is an allowable WIC expense

Stature Boards

Stature boards must be:

- Readable to the nearest one-eighth inch
- Made of functional, durable, and easy-to-clean materials
- Made with no sharp edges, exposed screws, or unfinished parts.

Note: Wall-mounted devices must be permanently attached to a wall without a baseboard. Measuring rods on physicians' scales are not approved for measuring height.

Length Boards

Length boards must have a rigid headboard and movable footboard and must be:

- Readable to the nearest one-eighth inch
- Made of functional, durable, and easy-to-clean materials
- Made with no sharp edges, exposed screws, or unfinished parts

Hemoglobinometers

The HemoCue and Pronto (noninvasive) brands are currently the only approved hemoglobinometers for use in WIC clinics.

Cleaning

Follow manufacturers' instructions for cleaning and maintaining equipment. See Policy "Infection Control Guidelines" for more information on cleaning clinic supplies and equipment.