

## Wall Mount Scales – What Are They and Does My Hospital Need Them?



An SR Instruments, Inc. Article

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### Summary

Wall mount scales have secured acceptance in the medical industry as a valuable tool to obtain a patient's weight in a variety of settings. New variations on this popular weighing platform continue to be developed that make weighing patients easier and safer.

If you're unfamiliar with wall mount scales, the following article will give you a better understanding of how they work and why there is a growing demand for these scales.

## Origins of a New Product Design – The Wall Mount Scale

### Overview

You could say that medical scales in a hospital are, for the most part, the most ignored piece of diagnostic equipment in a medical center. Typically, the approach is to buy it once, put it in place where it can be used as needed, and then pretty much forget about it. Unless of course, you need something more specialized to help weigh your patients who are not ambulatory. Then, other scales are needed to fill the gap for these applications.

Fortunately, there are a wide range of specialized medical scales that can meet these requirements. This includes chair scales, which are larger platform scales with a built-in seat or bench that enables patients who cannot stand, to sit comfortably in the chair to get their weight taken.



Wheelchair scales are another popular type of scale where a patient in a wheelchair can be wheeled onto a large flat weighing surface to have a weight taken. For semi-ambulatory patients, a chair can be placed on a wheelchair scale, have its weight tared out, and then a patient can sit in the chair for weighing.

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Also in use for many years are hospital beds that feature built-in scales that can take a non-ambulatory patient's weight whenever needed. Just tare out the bedding and mattress weights accordingly.

Additionally, manual operated, hydraulic lift scales with stretcher attachments have provided an option for weighing non-ambulatory patients.

Lastly, large built-in floor scales are popular for weighing patients on stretchers as well. When constructing new hospitals and medical facilities, these scales can be incorporated into the design; typically on the first floor when building new facilities.

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## Innovation for a Missing Product and Application

About fifteen years ago, a new type of innovative, large platform weighing system was introduced to the medical community. The first few models were designed and engineered for weighing wheelchairs and stretchers.



The large weighing surface platforms are held in an upright (vertical) position when not in use. For example, SR Scales' wall mount systems take up less than four inches of space when the platforms are raised and stored in their upright positions. The scale's frame is connected to the weighing platform at the lower, floor-based edge. When lowered, the platform pivots to the ground and is automatically activated, ready to take a weight. In order to make the platforms safe when being lowered (and raised), counterbalancing actuators in the platform enable a single person to easily lower and raise the unit.

These scales go by a number of names depending upon the brand and manufacturer, but are commonly referred to as "wall mount" scales.

The typical weighing practice is to take a patient's weight, whether in a wheelchair or on a stretcher, and then tare out the weight of the device (wheelchair or stretcher) to arrive at the weight of just the patient. Alternatively, if a single device, such as a wheelchair, is going to be used repeatedly to weigh individual patients, such as in a long-term care center, you can weigh the wheelchair by itself on the wall mount scale, then zero out the wheelchair so the display reads "0.0 lbs." You can then remove the wheelchair and have residents (patients) sit in the wheelchair, wheel them onto the platform to take their weights without having to tare out the wheelchair's weight every time. After taking all the patients' weights, the platform can be easily raised back into place against the wall.

Larger wall mount scales for weighing patients on stretchers provide hospitals with an attractive and functional alternative to bulky sling or lift scales. The wall mount scale's narrow



Side view of SR Scales' Wall Mount Scale, width of 3.25"

frame provides an ideal space-saving design for hospitals to store the scales when not in use. For example, SR Scales' extra-large hospital stretcher scale, the SR7020i, takes up less than four inches of wall space when not in use. Yet when folded down to take a weight, the scale's large 38" x 58" platform can accommodate hospital stretchers with a weight capacity of 1,000 pounds.

Continuous advances in wall mount scale technology provide improved features to meet the growing demand for this important category of scales. Check back with your scale provider of choice to learn more about wall mount scales.

## Choosing the Right Wall Mount Scale for Your Application

Just like there are various types of stand-on scales and wheelchair scales to meet specific weighing requirements, hospital staff can select from a number of wall mount scale designs to meet their weighing applications. SR Scales provides hospital systems, long-term care facilities, and dialysis centers with the largest selection of wall mount scale products available that address specific weighing needs of these facilities.

- **Wall mount scales for in-room patient weighing.** The SR7005i is the newest and smallest wall mount scale available from SR Instruments. It can be used for weighing ambulatory patients in a private room or can be located in a medical office hallway. In both these settings, space is a premium and the low profile scale takes up less than three inches of wall space when not in use. When needed, the platform is easily lowered to the floor and ready to take a weight. Compared to a bulky balance beam scale or an older digital stand-on scale this new, low rise platform wall mount scale provides robust functionality with digital accuracy and always-on display.

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- Wall mount scales for weighing patients in bariatric wheelchairs.** As the average weight in the US population has increased, bariatric products and care are more readily available to meet these patient requirements. So too, medical weighing equipment has evolved to provide specific scales designed to meet the needs of bariatric patients. For example, SR Scales has designed its wall mount wheelchair scale, the SR7000i, to not only weigh patients in a standard wheelchair, but the scale easily accommodates the extra wide measurements (24" x 40") and weight capacity (1,000 lbs.) to comfortably and easily weigh patients in bariatric wheelchairs.



SR Scales' SR7000i Wheelchair Wall Mount Scale

- Wall mount scales that weigh ambulance gurneys.** Today's active emergency departments also require weighing systems to quickly and efficiently obtain a patient's weight upon arrival. New emergency department designs are now more frequently incorporating large platform wall mount scales, such as the SR7010i



SR Scales' SR7010i Ambulance Gurney Wall Mount Scale

Ambulance Gurney Scale directly in their emergency department entry ways. These scales allow ambulance crews to quickly obtain a patient's weight as soon as they get off the ambulance. Then after the patient has been transferred for treatment, the ambulance crew can weigh their equipment (less patient) to give the tare weight to attending personnel. A built-in printer option on the ambulance gurney wall mount scale can easily provide written documentation for the crews to hand to the hospital staff for patient weight data entry.

- Larger hospital stretchers need extra-large wall mount scales.** As hospital stretchers have grown in size over the past few decades, the need to weigh a patient in these stretchers has not diminished, but rather increased. To help address the need for weighing patients on these larger hospital stretchers, SR Scales has designed the largest wall mount scale currently on the market with its SR7020i Extra Large Hospital Stretcher Scale. This scale is typically placed in a

hospital hallway where there is sufficient space to roll a stretcher, with patient, onto the platform. These scales have grown in popularity as an alternative to patient lift scales which are more cumbersome to obtain a patient weight. Some hospitals have also installed these scales in their emergency room departments to handle a variety of weighing applications.



As you consider adding a wall mount scale to your facility, you can rest assured that this type of platform scale is durable, robust, here to stay, and has plenty of design options to meet your weighing requirements.

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## Five Points to Consider When Selecting a Wall Mount Scale

If you're considering a wall mount scale for your hospital, long-term care facility, dialysis center or other medical facility, there are a number of important points to consider when selecting which manufacturer you select and their product expertise.

### 1. Is the scale manufacturer ISO Certified?

Professional medical scales for acute care applications need to be highly accurate and reliable. One way to help ensure that these products are designed and manufactured according to acceptable industry standard practices is to have an ISO Quality Management System in place. For instance, SR Instruments is certified by TUV Rheinland to meet the requirements of EN ISO 13485 (Quality Management System for Medical Device Manufacturers). This designation is important as it certifies that the manufacturer adheres to processes and manufacturing procedures that will help SR Instruments manage the various interacting processes and resources that are required to provide value and realize results. The outcome of following ISO quality management guidelines means that the company's wall mount scales made at their facilities are built to these standards. This ensures consistency in manufacturing long-lasting wall mount scales.

### 2. How long is the product warranty?

A company's product warranty is a vital part of selecting a wall mount scale. Most medical scale manufacturers that provide wall mount type scales offer only a one year standard warranty on their products. SR Instruments offers four times this industry standard by supplying each of its wall mount scales with a FOUR YEAR warranty at no additional cost. This means that a hospital's ROI on the scale is a better investment over time since it is secured with the extra-long warranty.

### 3. Does the wall mount scale incorporate antimicrobial product protection?

Today's world is one of extreme awareness of germs, bacteria, viruses, and prevention. We're all working to maintain cleaner homes, work places, and be safe when we're out in the public. For hospitals and medical centers, keeping buildings and equipment clean and safe is of vital importance to help prevent the spread of bacteria. As such, another consideration in selecting a wall mount scale is knowing if the manufacturer has incorporated any type of antimicrobial product protection on its products. For instance, SR wall mount scales now come standard with Microban® SilverShield® embedded antimicrobial technology\*. Surface areas on SR wall mount scales that contain the antimicrobial protection include the platform, frame, display housing, keypad, and visible labeling. Microban protection begins to work as soon as a micro-organism comes into contact with the product surface. The technology then works continuously to maintain a consistently lower bio-burden than would be expected on a product without Microban protection. SR Scales infused with Microban do not replace



existing cleaning practices at medical facilities, but rather complement existing cleaning protocols.

\*Microban® technology is not designed to protect users against disease causing microorganisms. Microban Products Company makes neither direct nor implied health claims. Normal cleaning practices should be maintained.

#### 4. How many wall mount scale product variations are available?

So let's say you've selected a brand of wall mount scale that you like and are satisfied with all the product features. The next question is how many wall mount scale models are available? A manufacturer that offers a multitude of product variations is committed to supporting and developing this product line, recognizing that similar features of wall mount scales can be adapted to multiple models to meet different requirements throughout a hospital campus. SR Instruments is aggressively committed to its line of SR wall mount scales by introducing a new model every few years. As a result, SR Scales is now the industry leader in supplying the medical community with the most expansive line of wall mount scales in the industry by supporting four different models.



SR Scales' Wall Model models span four different models. Pictured here is the largest wall mount scale and the smallest.

#### 5. How is the product serviced if it needs repair?

Critical to purchasing any product, especially medical equipment, is knowing how the unit will be serviced when needed. There are advantages of working directly with the manufacturer of a product when service issues arise. For starters, when working directly with a manufacturer, they are able to support your product with trained technicians who can expertly diagnose problems with your product. Second, working directly with the original manufacturer means that spare or replacement parts are more readily available without having to wait for a supply of parts to arrive from overseas. SR Scales has highly trained technicians on call to provide quick follow-up and diagnostic capabilities

for the company's wall mount scales along with maintaining a full supply of spare and replacement parts to meet warranty and other repair requirements.

If you have any questions on SR's line of wall mount scales, you can contact us at [info-request@srinstruments.com](mailto:info-request@srinstruments.com) or call us at +1-800-654-6360.

### Online Resources

#### Antimicrobial Scales featuring Microban® Product Protection

<http://bit.ly/AntimicrobialScales>

#### SR Wall Mount Scales:

<https://bit.ly/SR-Wall-Mount-Scales>

#### Product Videos:

SR7020i: <http://bit.ly/SR Scales-SR7020i>

SR7010i: <http://bit.ly/SR Scales-SR7010i>

SR7005i: <https://bit.ly/SR-Scales-SR7005i>

SR7000i: <http://bit.ly/SR-Scales-SR7000i>



#### About SR Instruments, Inc. ([www.srinstruments.com](http://www.srinstruments.com))

SR Instruments is a manufacturer of purpose-built medical scales as well as OEM and ODM solutions that address critical weighing requirements for multiple industries. The company's flagship product line, SR Scales, provides highly accurate weighing systems for hospitals, medical facilities, and long-term care centers. Additional markets for SR Scales' weighing solutions include veterinary, zoological, aquariums, and waterparks. SR Instruments is headquartered in the greater Buffalo, NY region. The company manages the complete process of customizing scales and weighing systems, from initial design concepts to prototyping and final production.