

GP Practice Briefing Wheelchair Scales in GP Practices

Background

NHS England have awarded CCGs a fund to purchase sets of scales to be used in primary care which can be used to weigh patients who are in a wheelchair and are unable to stand on a normal set of scales. Four sets of scales have been purchased and are located in four practices across the county. Details on how the scales can be accessed are below.

The scales will particularly be beneficial for:

- Any patient in a wheelchair who is unable to stand on a normal set of scales.
- Patients with a learning disability (people with a learning disability are more likely to be either underweight or overweight). The Cardiff Health Check tool, which should be used for a patient's annual health check with their GP, asks for the patient's weight.
- Bariatric patients. The scales have a capacity of 300kg / 660lbs approx. / 47 stone approx.

How does it work?

The table below sets out where the scales are located and how patients can access them.

Glensford Surgery, Sudbury 01787 280484	Patients will need to call the practice to make an appointment. Appointments will be available on Tues, Weds and Thurs.
Rookery Medical Centre, Newmarket 01638 665711	Patients will need to call the practice to make an appointment.
Wickham Market Medical Centre 01728 747101	Patients can attend at any time and will be able to weigh themselves.
Orchard Street Medical Centre, Ipswich 01473 01473 213261 (option 1)	Patients will be able to attend every other Wednesday afternoon and will be able to weigh themselves.

Please remind the patient that they will need to know the weight of their chair.

At each practice the patient will be given a card where they will be able to fill in their details and weight. They can then return this card to their own practice so their details can be updated on the practice clinical system.

Where else can patients get weighed?

Leading Lives have also set up a wheelchair weighing service, with locations in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft. Please see the poster which was issued alongside this briefing.

If you have any further queries, please contact Emily Rawlinson, Commissioning Implementation Manager, Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG emily.rawlinson@ipswichandeastsuffolkccg.nhs.uk