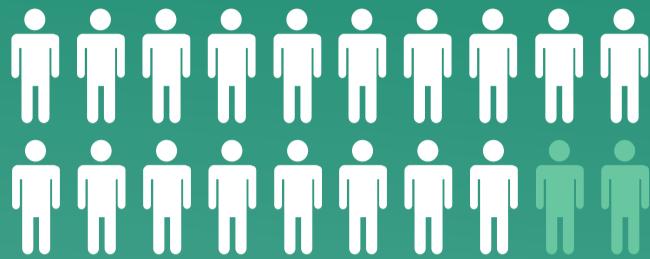
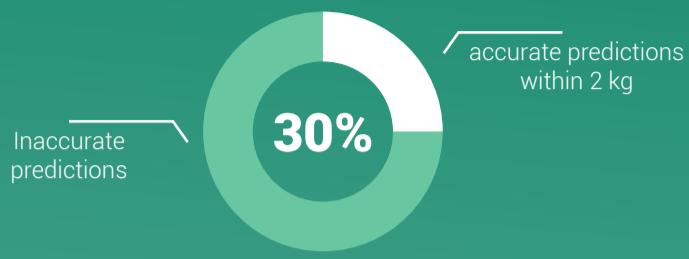


# MARSDEN

Weighing up the risks: the importance of accurate weight measurement in clinical environments



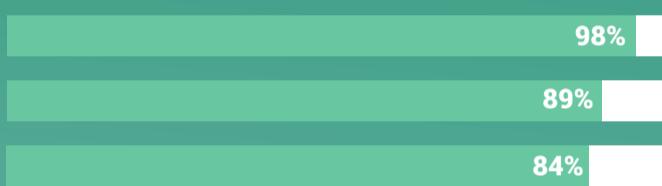
A telephone survey of **20** ICUs in the United Kingdom indicated only **two measured patients weight**.<sup>10</sup>



A study in 2009 concluded that dietitians were able to accurately predict patients' body weight within 2 kg in **no more than 30% of patients**.<sup>6</sup>



Malnutrition in adults on admission to hospitals and care homes affects almost **1 in 3 subjects**, who were mostly in the high risk category. Malnutrition is common in all types of care homes and hospitals, all types of wards and diagnostic categories, and all ages. It is also common in mental health units.<sup>15</sup>



In a UK hospice, **55%** of staff did not wish to weight patients as they felt the patients shouldn't be thinking about their weight during palliative care. However, in the same study, **98%** of patients felt that getting weighed was not upsetting, **89%** wanted to be aware if their weight was changing, and **84%** wished to be weighed at future hospital appointments.<sup>24</sup>

**19.7%**



of stroke patients received an incorrect dose of recombinant tissue-type plasminogen activator due to the inaccuracy of clinicians estimation of weight.<sup>14</sup>

Accurate weight measurement can also contribute to cost avoidance. The NHS spends around £16 billion a year on drugs and it's estimated £300 million of prescribed medicines are wasted each year.<sup>25</sup>

With an excess bed day in the NHS costing between £2,089 and £2,532 a week, ensuring accurate weighing can have a significant impact on reducing drug wastage, litigation and length of stay, helping to make best use of NHS resources.<sup>28</sup>



**49%**

of cases in a study of cardiac patients in Scotland lead to dosing errors when prescribed LMWH, weights were either not recorded or estimated incorrectly by staff or patients.<sup>15</sup>

**6%**

Guidelines state that each patient should have their weight measured on admission. However, research has shown that just **6% of hospitals screen 75-100% of patients for weight, and only 49% record patients weights across all ward's.**<sup>1</sup>

## WEIGHT MATTERS

Here at Marsden, we want to make a positive change and ensure that better outcomes are obtained for all patients. Because of this we have recently launched our **#WeightMatters** campaign. As part of this campaign, we aim to engage with influential figures, generate educational materials and provide insightful content for our customers. No longer should clinicians guess the weight of patients.

For more information on **#WeightMatters**, to keep up with the latest Marsden news and to browse our range of medical weighing devices, please visit the Marsden website.

The references used within this document can be found here: <https://www.marsden-weighing.co.uk/infographic-references>

