



Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg
Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé

Operational Guidelines for Sphygmomanometers

TITLE:

Maintenance and Re-Calibration for Sphygmomanometers

APPROVED BY:

Community Health Services Leadership Team

Population and Public Health

Date

Date

TARGET REVIEW DATE

PAGE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this operational guideline is to describe the maintenance and calibration procedures for aneroid sphygmomanometers, to reduce the potential risk for inaccurate blood pressure readings.

SCOPE & GOAL: To ensure that properly calibrated equipment is available for Public Health Nurses to use when assessing client health.

DEFINITIONS:

PHN = Public Health Nurse

BACKGROUND:

There is a need to establish consistency in processes for maintenance and calibration of sphygmomanometers.

PROCEDURE:

1. The sphygmomanometer is calibrated when the gauge needle is resting anywhere within the oval or rectangular accuracy bubble located on the dial, when the sphygmomanometer is not in use ie at zero pressure.
2. Although an unpressurized reading of zero does not guarantee accuracy at all scale points, failure of the pointer to indicate zero (± 3 mm Hg) is an obvious sign of error.
3. When the gauge needle does not rest within the bubble, and/or the tubing is cracked the sphygmomanometer is not to be used.
4. Logistics is to be contacted to make arrangements for re-calibration or replacement of the damaged or inaccurate sphygmomanometer.

VALIDATION:

Guidelines adapted from sphygmomanometer product information.