

## National standards of healthcare cleanliness 2025

### Frequency of Cleaning Audits for General Practice: Quick reference guide

Healthcare organisations can decide what audit frequency best monitors safe standards for each functional area. The frequency of audit should be reviewed regularly to meet the changing needs of the service, patients, and the environment, and to continuously improve safe cleaning standards.

Functional risk	FR1	FR2	FR3	FR4	FR5	FR6
Suggested Audit frequency	Weekly	Monthly	Bi-monthly	Quarterly	Six-monthly	Annually

Month	FR1	FR2	FR3	FR4	FR5	FR6
January	Weekly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
February	Weekly	✓				
March	Weekly	✓	✓			
April	Weekly	✓		✓		
May	Weekly	✓	✓			
June	Weekly	✓				
July	Weekly	✓	✓	✓	✓	
August	Weekly	✓				
September	Weekly	✓	✓			
October	Weekly	✓		✓		
November	Weekly	✓	✓			
December	Weekly	✓				

Technical (cleaning) audits should be randomly undertaken at different times and on different days, but with consideration for the frequency of cleaning and the cleaning schedule. The time or frequency of cleaning and associated risk category need to be regularly reviewed and adjusted if indicated to continuously improve safe cleaning standards. Good practice is for a minimum of 50% of each functional area to be audited in one session, making the audit representative of the whole area. If 50% of a functional area is audited in one session, the other 50% must be audited in the next session, not the same 50%. Every room or area in the General Practice should be audited at least once in the annual audit cycle.

Please feel free to use and adapt this Quick reference guide to create a cleaning audit plan for your General Practice, e.g. if you are starting in April, alter the table to start with April, if you have no FR1 areas delete the column, record individual room numbers that are to be audited in the relevant box next to the tick.