

## National Standards of Cleanliness what's required?

Last month we discussed the new National Standards of Cleanliness document which will be coming into effect in April 2022. This month I would like to discuss what will be required and some updates that have been received.

In April 2021 NHS England published the National Standards of Cleanliness 2021 which supersedes the National specifications for cleanliness 2007. The publication applies to all healthcare settings including Primary Care dental and is designed to provide a common understanding of what it means to be a clean healthcare setting.

Several discussions have been had with NHS England and the key infrastructure for the NHS Deep Clean Advisory service to obtain some clarity over the actual impact on England NHS Dentistry.

The following deadlines are now in place and have been confirmed: Dental Practice need to be fully compliant with Star ratings display by November 2022. The external audit is considered best practice and is not required for full compliance of the star ratings. Templates need to be in place so that a first round of audits can be carried out to achieve the Star rating deadline. The Efficacy audit then needs to be completed within 12 months of the November date.

### **What does this mean to the practice?**

Dental practices need to have the scores in place by April. In order to do this the following documents will need to have been completed: Cleaning Specification, Technical Audit and Efficacy Audit.

When putting together the Cleaning Specification you will need to identify your Functional Risk areas, which range from FR1-FR6. Dentistry will, in most occasions, use FR2, FR3, FR4 and FR6. With each of the FR groups you will need to list the following:

- *cleaning elements – a list of individual items/categories of items that require cleaning*
- *performance parameters – the expected standard of each item (element) after cleaning*
- *cleaning frequencies – how often each item (element) should be cleaned, broken down by FR category.*

Some of this information will be transferred directly from your existing Environmental Cleaning Policy.

The Technical Audit is a transference of the Cleaning Specifications information whereby you can score the cleanliness and effectiveness of the cleaning process. You will monitor each item and grade it either a (0) Fail or (1) Pass. This information will then be transferred into an overall score and are carried out on a regular basis.

The Efficacy Audit will be carried out on an annual basis and is a management tool to ensure that correct IPC and Safety standards are being met. Like the technical Audit each area will be scored and given a percentage rating.

### **Working towards Star Ratings**

Dental practices will then need to work towards achieving their Star Ratings. The Star Ratings are achieved in 2 ways. Firstly once the Technical and Efficacy audit have been carried out the practice will, with the use of the Scores and Percentages, give themselves and Internal Star Rating. Secondly practices will then need to get this confirmed by an independent assessor through the External Audit.

Once the External Audit has been carried out and the scores confirmed then a final Star Rating will be given and practices can then display their poster for patients to see. Star Ratings have been used in a wide variety of industry's and will be easily recognised by patients.

### **Commitment to Cleanliness Charter**

Once the first round of audits, including the external audit, practices will then complete the Commitment to Cleanliness Charter and display this for patients to see. The Charters are a way of practices showing patients that they are serious about providing a safe clean environment by referencing the new star rating system which reflects the cleanliness of the whole area regardless of who is responsible for cleaning it.

If you need any help or assistance with any of the documents then please get in touch. You can also contact Tutum Health who are able to support you with External audits and can assist you in ensuring full compliance. They have put together several different options to support you and further details can be found at [www.deconpete.co.uk](http://www.deconpete.co.uk) or [www. https://tutumhealth.co.uk/national-compliance-solution/](https://tutumhealth.co.uk/national-compliance-solution/)