Meeting the national standards for cleanliness - where are we at?

There has been quite a bit of forum traffic surrounding this subject again and I thought I would add my tuppence worth and give an update / thoughts.  
  
Whilst there is still no firm direction that I have seen, please be aware that CQC recently updated the [GP Mythbuster 99 - Infection prevention control in primary care](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbuster-99-infection-prevention-control-general-practice)that alludes to cleaning standards and provides sound advice. To support this, the [Cleaning standards and schedule policy](https://practiceindex.co.uk/gp/forum/resources/cleaning-standards-and-schedule-policy.1388/) [PLUS]  is a 52-page document that looks at the expected standard required of cleaning in each room and the frequency that is needed for items that need to be cleaned. It already follows the [National standards of healthcare cleanliness 2021](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/B0271-national-standards-of-healthcare-cleanliness-2021.pdf) and looks at new terminology into frequency, be it a spot clean, a full, periodic, check or touch point for areas that come into regular contact.  
  
So with looking at both Mythbuster and National Standards, practices should already be doing what is needed, that is, should they have a robust process that includes:

* Incorporation of National standards
* Schedule of cleaning
* Awareness that some areas need a greater frequency of cleaning (such as telephones and keyboards)

As previously mentioned, there is no need in primary care to have star rating posters up in the waiting rooms. NHSPS owned buildings may insist on having these monthly "How am I driving" type posters, but they generally have their own cleaning contractors and may have other services that are being run from the building. Otherwise, those many other non-NHSPS practices, I would suggest should follow the CQC Mythbuster and not that what is stated within the audit section of the National Standards.  
  
Whilst we have been waiting since April 2021 to have clear direction for primary care, and on searching implementation dates this morning, it says April 22 and also November 22, however, this article from [PULSE / BMA](https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/premises/nhs-england-cleanliness-standards-not-mandatory-for-gp-practices/) suggests that it will not be a requirement in primary care... confused yet?  
  
Whatever the requirement is, I still would not be too concerned as I would suggest that any practice that already has a robust process in place is more than compliant. I would also suggest that your practice saves £££ by not having external companies paying you a visit, to tell you that you need to do A, B and C to meet the standards. Whereas, should you follow the Mythbuster, the cleaning policy that details the above and meeting the standards as detailed within the [Infection prevention control (IPC) policy](https://practiceindex.co.uk/gp/forum/resources/infection-prevention-control-policy-ipc.700/) [PLUS]  should be all that is needed to tick the National Standards box.  
  
I hope that this helps,  
  
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