

DOCUMENT RETENTION PERIODS – CLINICAL RECORDS
GUIDANCE NOTES

Broad descriptor	Record Type	Retention Start	Retention period	Action at end of retention period	Notes
Care Records with standard retention periods	Adult health records not covered by any other section in this schedule	Discharge or patient last seen	8 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Basic health and social care retention period - check for any other involvements that could extend the retention. All must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any serious incident retentions. This includes medical illustration records such as X-rays and scans as well as video and other formats.
Care Records with standard retention periods	Adult social care records	End of care or client last seen	8 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

<p>Care Records with standard retention periods</p>	<p>Children's records including midwifery, health visiting and school nursing</p>	<p>Discharge or patient last seen</p>	<p>25th or 26th birthday (see Notes)</p>	<p>Review and if no longer needed destroy</p>	<p>Basic health and social care retention requirement is to retain until 25th birthday or if the patient was 17 at the conclusion of the treatment, until their 26th birthday. Check for any other involvements that could extend the retention. All must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any serious incident retentions. This includes medical illustration records such as X-rays and scans as well as video and other formats.</p>
<p>Care Records with standard retention periods</p>	<p>Electronic Patient Records System</p>	<p>See Notes</p>	<p>See Notes</p>	<p>Destroy</p>	<p>Where the electronic system has the capacity to destroy records in line with the retention schedule, and where a metadata stub can remain demonstrating that a record has been destroyed, then the code should be followed in the same way for electronic records as for paper records with a log being kept of the records destroyed. If the system does not have this capacity, then once the records have reached the end of their retention periods they should be inaccessible to users of the system and upon decommissioning, the system (along with audit trails) should be retained for the retention period of the last entry related to the schedule.</p>

Care Records with standard retention periods	General Dental Services records	Discharge or patient last seen	10 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Care Records with standard retention periods	GP Patient records	Death of Patient	10 years after death see Notes for exceptions	Review and if no longer needed destroy	<p>If a new provider requests the records, these are transferred to the new provider to continue care. If no request to transfer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where the patient does not come back to the practice and the records are not transferred to a new provider the record must be retained for 100 years unless it is known that they have emigrated 2. Where a patient is known to have emigrated, records may be reviewed and destroyed after 10 years 3. If the patient comes back within the 100 years, the retention reverts to 10 years after death.

Care Records with standard retention periods	Mental Health records	Discharge or patient last seen	20 years or 8 years after the patient has died	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Covers records made where the person has been cared for under the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007. This includes psychology records. Retention solely for any persons who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983 must be considerably longer than 20 years where the case may be ongoing. Very mild forms of adult mental health treated in a community setting where a full recovery is made may consider treating as an adult records and keep for 8 years after discharge. All must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any serious incident retentions.
Care Records with standard retention periods	Obstetric records, maternity records and antenatal and post natal records	Discharge or patient last seen	25 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	For the purposes of record keeping these records are to be considered as much a record of the child as that of the mother.

Care Records with Non-Standard Retention Periods	Cancer/Oncology - the oncology records of any patient	Diagnosis of Cancer	30 Years or 8 years after the patient has died	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	For the purposes of clinical care the diagnosis records of any cancer must be retained in case of future reoccurrence. Where the oncology records are in a main patient file the entire file must be retained. Retention is applicable to primary acute patient record of the cancer diagnosis and treatment only. If this is part of a wider patient record then the entire record may be retained. Any oncology records must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any potential long term research value which may require consent or anonymisation of the record.
Care Records with Non-Standard Retention Periods	Contraception, sexual health, Family Planning and Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM)	Discharge or patient last seen	8 or 10 years (see Notes)	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Basic retention requirement is 8 years unless there is an implant or device inserted, in which case it is 10 years. All must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any serious incident retentions. If this is a record of a child, treat as a child record as above.
Care Records with Non-Standard Retention Periods	HFEA records of treatment provided in licenced treatment centres		3, 10, 30, or 50 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Retention periods are set out in the HFEA guidance at: http://www.hfea.gov.uk/docs/General_directions_0012.pdf
Care Records with Non-Standard Retention Periods	Medical record of a patient with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	Diagnosis	30 Years or 8 years after the patient has died	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	For the purposes of clinical care the diagnosis records of CJD must be retained. Where the CJD records are in a main patient file the entire file must be retained. All must be reviewed prior to destruction taking into account any serious incident retentions.

Care Records with Non-Standard Retention Periods	Record of long term illness or an illness that may reoccur	Discharge or patient last seen	30 Years or 8 years after the patient has died	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Necessary for continuity of clinical care. The primary record of the illness and course of treatment must be kept of a patient where the illness may reoccur or is a life long illness.
Pharmacy	Information relating to controlled drugs	Creation	See Notes	Review and if no longer needed destroy	<p>NHS England and NHS BSA guidance for controlled drugs can be found at: http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/1120.aspx and https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/som-cont-drugs.pdf The Medicines, Ethics and Practice (MEP) guidance can be found at the link (subscription required) http://www.rpharms.com/support/mep.asp#new Guidance from NHS England is that locally held controlled drugs information should be retained for 7 years.</p> <p>NHS BSA will hold primary data for 20 years and then review. NHS East and South East Specialist Pharmacy Services have prepared pharmacy records guidance including a specialised retention schedule for pharmacy. Please see: http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Communities/NHS/SPS-E-and-SE-England/Reports-Bulletins/Retention-of-pharmacy-records/</p>

Pharmacy	Pharmacy prescription records <i>see also Controlled Drugs</i>	Discharge or patient last seen	2 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	See also 'Controlled Drugs'. There will also be an entry in the patient record and a record held by the NHS Business Services Authority. NHS East and South East Specialist Pharmacy Services have prepared pharmacy records guidance including a specialised retention schedule for pharmacy. Please see: http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Communities/NHS/SPS-E-and-SE-England/Reports-Bulletins/Retention-of-pharmacy-records/
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Pathology	Pathology Reports/Information about Specimens and samples	Specimen or sample is destroyed	See Notes	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	<p>This Code is concerned with the information about a specimen or sample. The length of storage of the clinical material will drive the length of time the information about it is to be kept.</p> <p>For more details please see: https://www.rcpath.org/resourceLibrary/the-retention-and-storage-of-pathological-records-and-specimens--5th-edition-.html.</p> <p>Retention of samples for clinical purposes can be for as long as there is a clinical need to hold the specimen or sample. Reports should be stored on the patient file. It is common for pathologists to hold duplicate reports. For clinical purposes this is 8 years after the patient is discharged for an adult or until a child's 25th birthday whichever is the longer. . After 20 years for adult records there must be an appraisal as to the historical importance of the information and a decision made as to whether they should be destroyed or kept for archival value.</p>
Event & Transaction Records	Blood bank register	Creation	30 Years minimum	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	

Event & Transaction Records	Clinical Audit	Creation	5 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Chaplaincy records	Creation	2 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	See also Corporate Retention
Event & Transaction Records	Clinical Diaries	End of the year to which they relate	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Diaries of clinical activity & visits must be written up and transferred to the main patient file. If the information is not transferred the diary must be kept for 8 years.
Event & Transaction Records	Clinical Protocols	Creation	25 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Clinical protocols may have archival value. They may also be routinely captured in clinical governance meetings which may form part of the permanent record (see Corporate Records).

Event & Transaction Records	Datasets released by HSCIC under a data sharing agreement	Date specified in the data sharing agreement	Delete with immediate effect	Delete according to HSCIC instruction	http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/15729/DARS-Data-Sharing-Agreement/pdf/Data_Sharing_Agreement_2015v2%28restricted_editing%29.pdf
Event & Transaction Records	Destruction Certificates or Electronic Metadata destruction stub or record of clinical information held on destroyed physical media	Destruction of record or information	20 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Destruction certificates created by public bodies are not covered by an instrument of retention and if a Place of Deposit or the National Archives do not class them as a record of archival importance they are to be destroyed after 20 years.
Event & Transaction Records	Equipment maintenance logs	Decommissioning of the equipment	11 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Event & Transaction Records	General Ophthalmic Services patient records related to NHS financial transactions	Discharge or patient last seen	6 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Event & Transaction Records	GP temporary resident forms	After treatment	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Assumes a copy sent to responsible GP for inclusion in the primary care record
Event & Transaction Records	Inspection of equipment records	Decommissioning of equipment	11 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Notifiable disease book	Creation	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Operating theatre records	End of year to which they relate	10 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	If transferred to a place of deposit the duty of confidence continues to apply and can only be used for research if the patient has consented or the record is anonymised.
Event & Transaction Records	Patient Property Books	End of the year to which they relate	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Referrals not accepted	Date of rejection.	2 years as an ephemeral record	Review and if no longer needed destroy	The rejected referral to the service should also be kept on the originating service file.

Event & Transaction Records	Requests for funding for care not accepted	Date of rejection	2 years as an ephemeral record	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Screening, including cervical screening, information where no cancer/illness detected is detected	Creation	10 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Where cancer is detected see 2 Cancer / Oncology. For child screening treat as a child health record and retain until 25th birthday or 10 years after the child has been screened whichever is the longer.
Event & Transaction Records	Smoking cessation	Closure of 12 week quit period	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Event & Transaction Records	Transplantation Records	Creation	30 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	See guidance at: https://www.hta.gov.uk/codes-practice
Event & Transaction Records	Ward handover sheet	Date of handover	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	This retention relates to the ward. The individual sheets held by staff must be destroyed confidentially at the end of the shift.

Telephony Systems & Services (999 phone numbers, 111 phone numbers, ambulance, out of hours, single point of contact call centres).	Recorded conversation which may later be needed for clinical negligence purpose	Creation	3 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	The period of time cited by the NHS Litigation Authority is 3 years
Telephony Systems & Services (999 phone numbers, 111 phone numbers, ambulance, out of hours, single point of contact call centres).	Recorded conversation which forms part of the health record	Creation	Store as a health record	Review and if no longer needed destroy	It is advisable to transfer any relevant information into the main record through transcription or summarisation. Call handlers may perform this task as part of the call. Where it is not possible to transfer clinical information from the recording to the record the recording must be considered as part of the record and be retained accordingly.
Telephony Systems & Services (999 phone numbers, 111 phone numbers)	The telephony systems record (not recorded conversations)	Creation	1 year	Review and if no longer needed destroy	This is the absolute minimum specified to meet the NHS contractual requirement.

numbers, ambulance, out of hours, single point of contact call centres).					
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Birth Notification to Child Health	Receipt by Child health department	25 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Treat as a part of the child's health record if not already stored within health record such as the health visiting record.
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Birth Registers	Creation	2 years	Review and actively consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Where registers of all the births that have taken place in a particular hospital/birth centre exist, these will have archival value and should be retained for 25 years and offered to a Place of Deposit at the end of this retention period. Information is also held in the NHS Number for Babies (NN4B) electronic system and by the Office for National Statistics. Other information about a birth must be recorded in the care record.
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Body Release Forms	Creation	2 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	

Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Death - cause of death certificate counterfoil	Creation	2 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Death register information sent to General Registry Office on monthly basis	Creation	2 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	A full dataset is available from the Office for National Statistics.
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Local Authority Adoption Record (normally held by the Local Authority children's services)	Creation	100 years from the date of the adoption order	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	The primary record of the adoption process is held by the local authority children's service responsible for the adoption service
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Mortuary Records of deceased	End of year to which they relate	10 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Mortuary register	Creation	10 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	

Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	NHS Medicals for Adoption Records	Creation	8 years or 25th birthday	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	The health reports will feed into the primary record held by Local Authority Children's services. This means that the adoption records held in the NHS relate to reports that are already kept in another file which is kept for 100 years by the appropriate agency and local authority.
Births, Deaths & Adoption Records	Post Mortem Records	Creation	10 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	The primary post mortem file will be maintained by the coroner. The coroner will retain the post mortem file including the report. Local records of post mortem will not need to be kept for the same extended time.
Clinical Trials & Research	Advanced Medical Therapy Research Master File	Closure of research	30 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	See guidance at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advanced-therapy-medicinal-products-regulation-and-licensing For clinical trials record retention please see the MHRC guidance at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-clinical-practice-for-clinical-trials
Clinical Trials & Research	Clinical Trials Master File of a trial authorised under the European portal under Regulation (EU) No 536/2014	Closure of trial	25 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	For details see: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.158.01.0001.01.ENG

Clinical Trials & Research	European Commission Authorisation (certificate or letter) to enable marketing and sale within the EU member states area	Closure of trial	15 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	http://ec.europa.eu/health/files/eudralex/vol-2/a/vol2a_chap1_2013-06_en.pdf
Clinical Trials & Research	Research data sets	End of research	Not more than 20 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	http://tools.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/downloads/bcs-rrs/managing-research-records.pdf

Clinical Trials & Research	Research Ethics Committee's documentation for research proposal	End of research	5 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	<p>For details please see: http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/research-legislation-and-governance/governance-arrangements-for-research-ethics-committees/</p> <p>Data must be held for sufficient time to allow any questions about the research to be answered. Depending on the type of research the data may not need to be kept once the purpose has expired. For example data used for passing an academic exam may be destroyed once the exam has been passed and there is no further academic need to hold the data. For more significant research a place of deposit may be interested in holding the research. It is best practice to consider this at the outset of research and orphaned personal data can inadvertently cause a data breach.</p>
Clinical Trials & Research	Research Ethics Committee's minutes and papers	Year to which they relate	Before 20 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	<p>Committee papers must be transferred to a place of deposit as a public record: http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/research-legislation-and-governance/governance-arrangements-for-research-ethics-committees/</p>

Corporate Governance	Board Meetings	Creation	Before 20 years but as soon as practically possible	Transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Corporate Governance	Board Meetings (Closed Boards)	Creation	May retain for 20 years	Transfer to a Place of Deposit	Although they may contain confidential or sensitive material they are still a public record and must be transferred at 20 years with any FOI exemptions noted or duty of confidence indicated.
Corporate Governance	Chief Executive records	Creation	May retain for 20 years	Transfer to a Place of Deposit	This may include emails and correspondence where they are not already included in the board papers and they are considered to be of archival interest.
Corporate Governance	Committees Listed in the Scheme of Delegation or that report into the Board and major projects	Creation	Before 20 years but as soon as practically possible	Transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Corporate Governance	Committees/ Groups / Sub-committees not listed in the scheme of delegation	Creation	6 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Includes minor meetings/projects and departmental business meetings

Corporate Governance	Destruction Certificates or Electronic Metadata destruction stub or record of information held on destroyed physical media	Destruction of record or information	20 Years	Consider Transfer to a Place of Deposit and if no longer needed to destroy	The Public Records Act 1958 limits the holding of records to 20 years unless there is an instrument issued by the Minister with responsibility for administering the Public Records Act 1958. If records are not excluded by such an instrument they must either be transferred to a place of deposit as a public record or destroyed 20 years after the record has been closed.
Corporate Governance	Incidents (serious)	Date of Incident	20 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Corporate Governance	Incidents (not serious)	Date of Incident	10 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Corporate Governance	Non-Clinical Quality Assurance Records	End of year to which the assurance relates	12 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Corporate Governance	Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) records	Close of financial year	10 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Corporate Governance	Policies, strategies and operating procedures including business plans	Creation	Life of organisation plus 6 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Communications	Intranet site	Creation	6 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Communications	Patient information leaflets	End of use	6 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Communications	Press releases and important internal communications	Release Date	6 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Press releases may form a significant part of the public record of an organisation which may need to be retained
Communications	Public consultations	End of consultation	5 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	

Communications	Website	Creation	6 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Duty Roster	Close of financial year	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Exposure Monitoring information	Monitoring ceases	40 years/5 years from the date of the last entry made in it	Review and if no longer needed destroy	A) Where the record is representative of the personal exposures of identifiable employees, for at least 40 years or B) In any other case, for at least 5 years.
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Occupational Health Reports	Staff member leaves	Keep until 75th birthday or 6 years after the staff member leaves whichever is sooner	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Occupational Health Report of Staff member under health surveillance	Staff member leaves	Keep until 75th birthday	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Staff Records & Occupational Health	Occupational Health Report of Staff member under health surveillance where they have been subject to radiation doses	Staff member leaves	50 years from the date of the last entry or until 75th birthday, whichever is longer	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Staff Record	Staff member leaves	Keep until 75th birthday (see Notes)	Create Staff Record Summary then review or destroy the main file.	This includes (but is not limited to) evidence of right to work, security checks and recruitment documentation for the successful candidate including job adverts and application forms. May be destroyed 6 years after the staff member leaves or the 75 th birthday, whichever is sooner, if a summary has been made.
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Staff Record Summary	6 years after the staff member leaves	75th Birthday	Place of Deposit should be offered for continued retention or Destroy	Please see page 36 for an example of a Staff Record Summary used by an organisation.
Staff Records & Occupational Health	Timesheets (original record)	Creation	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Staff Records & Occupational Health	Staff Training records	Creation	See Notes	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Records of significant training must be kept until 75th birthday or 6 years after the staff member leaves. It can be difficult to categorise staff training records as significant as this can depend upon the staff member's role. The IGA recommends: 1 Clinical training records - to be retained until 75 th birthday or six years after the staff member leaves, whichever is the longer 2 Statutory and mandatory training records - to be kept for ten years after training completed 3 Other training records - keep for six years after training completed.
Procurement	Contracts sealed or unsealed	End of contract	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Procurement	Contracts - financial approval files	End of contract	15 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Procurement	Contracts - financial approved suppliers documentation	When supplier finishes work	11 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Procurement	Tenders (successful)	End of contract	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Procurement	Tenders (unsuccessful)	Award of tender	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Building plans and records of major building work	Completion of work	Lifetime of the building or disposal of asset plus six years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Building plans and records of works are potentially of historical interest and where possible be kept and transferred to a place of deposit
Estates	CCTV		See ICO Code of Practice	Review and if no longer needed destroy	ICO Code of Practice: https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1542/cctv-code-of-practice.pdf The length of retention must be determined by the purpose for which the CCTV has been deployed. The recorded images will only be retained long enough for any incident to come to light (e.g. for a theft to be noticed) and the incident to be investigated.

Estates	Equipment monitoring and testing and maintenance work where asbestos is a factor	Completion of monitoring or test	40 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Equipment monitoring and testing and maintenance work	Completion of monitoring or test	10 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Inspection reports	End of lifetime of installation	Lifetime of installation	Review	
Estates	Leases	Termination of lease	12 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Minor building works	Completion of work	retain for 6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Estates	Photographic collections of service locations and events and activities	Close of collection	Retain for not more than 20 years	Consider transfer to a place of deposit	The main reason for maintaining photographic collections is for historical legacy of the running and operation of an organisation. However, photographs may have subsidiary uses for legal enquiries.
Estates	Radioactive Waste	Creation	30 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Sterilix Endoscopic Disinfectant Daily Water Cycle Test, Purge Test, Nynhydrin Test	Date of test	11 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Estates	Surveys	End of lifetime of installation or building	Lifetime of installation or building	Review and consider transfer to Place of Deposit	
Finance	Accounts	Close of financial year	3 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Includes all associated documentation and records for the purpose of audit as agreed by auditors

Finance	Benefactions	End of financial year	8 years	Review and consider transfer to Place of Deposit	These may already be in the financial accounts and may be captured in other records/reports or committee papers. Where benefactions endowment trust fund/legacies - permanent retention.
Finance	Debtor records cleared	Close of financial year	2 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Debtor records not cleared	Close of financial year	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Donations	Close of financial year	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Expenses	Close of financial year	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Final annual accounts report	Creation	Before 20 years	Transfer to place of deposit if not transferred with the board	Should be transferred to a place of deposit as soon as practically possible

				papers	
Finance	Financial records of transactions	End of financial year	6 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Petty cash	End of financial year	2 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Private Finance initiative (PFI) files	End of PFI	Lifetime of PFI	Review and consider transfer to Place of Deposit	
Finance	Salaries paid to staff	Close of financial year	10 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Finance	Superannuation records	Close of financial year	10 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Complaints case file	Closure of incident (see Notes)	10 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	<p>http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/sched_complaints.pdf</p> <p>The incident is not closed until all subsequent processes have ceased including litigation. The file must not be kept on the patient file. A separate file must always be maintained.</p>
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Fraud case files	Case closure	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and responses and any associated correspondence	Closure of FOI request	3 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	Where redactions have been made it is important to keep a copy of the redacted disclosed documents or if not practical to keep a summary of the redactions.
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	FOI requests where there has been a subsequent appeal	Closure of appeal	6 years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Industrial relations including tribunal case records	Close of financial year	10 Years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	Some organisations may record these as part of the staff record but in most cases they will form a distinct separate record either held by the staff member/manager or by the payroll team for processing.
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Litigation records	Closure of case	10 years	Review and consider transfer to a Place of Deposit	
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Patents / trademarks / copyright / intellectual property-	End of lifetime of patent or termination of licence/action	Lifetime of patent or 6 years from end of licence /action	Review and consider transfer to Place of Deposit	
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Software licences	End of lifetime of software	Lifetime of software	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Subject Access Requests (SAR) and disclosure correspondence	Closure of SAR	3 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	
Legal, Complaints & information Rights	Subject access requests where there has been a subsequent appeal	Closure of appeal	6 Years	Review and if no longer needed destroy	

Source Reference:

Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016

The [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016](#) sets out what people working with or in NHS organisations in England need to do to manage records correctly. It's based on current legal requirements and professional best practice and was published on 20 July 2016 by the Information Governance Alliance (IGA).

Appendix 3 of the Code contains the [detailed retention schedules](#). It sets out how long records should be retained, either due to their ongoing administrative value or as a result of statutory requirement.