## Vertical Audit “deep dive”

**Definition**: Follows a single sample or process through the entire laboratory pathway from start to finish.

**Scope**: Examines end-to-end traceability – from sample collection → receipt → testing → reporting → result communication.

**Purpose**: Checks whether SOPs are being followed consistently at each stage; good for detecting weak links in a specific workflow.

**Example**: Take a patient’s blood culture and audit from specimen request form through transport, culture, ID/AST, reporting in LIMS, and clinician notification.

## Horizontal Audit “broad check”

**Definition**: Examines a single aspect of the quality system or procedure across all departments or processes at the same time.

**Scope**: Looks at system-wide compliance with one requirement.

**Purpose**: Checks consistency across different sections of the lab; good for verifying implementation of a standard policy.

**Example**: Audit of record keeping or reagent storage across bacteriology, virology, and serology; checking if all sections maintain correct fridge/freezer logs.