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To: All Leeds General Practices

31st January 2017

Dear Colleague

The Leeds CCGs and LMC have been working together to review how we support general practice at a time of unprecedented demand in the healthcare system.

Many of you will be aware of the decision taken by NHS Wales to relax QOF requirements for practices to support primary care in responding to the system wide pressures currently facing the NHS.

It has therefore been agreed that practices will have the option of flexibility to suspend some elements of routine QOF related workload for the remaining 16/17 period. This will provide some support to practices in terms of headroom and clinical capacity to meet high levels of urgent care demand within primary care including meeting demand for urgent appointments. We believe this can be safely done without a significant impact on the long term care to patients.

The decision also recognises the impact on general practice, following the major pathology laboratory failure earlier in the year.

This initiative is based on practices being paid for QOF at one of two levels this year: 2015/16 year end QOF achievement or their 2016/17 QOF achievement whichever is greater. This figure will then be used as the benchmark for the 17/18 aspirational payment.

Of the 559 clinical points, GP practices will be able to opt out of approximately 80% of the total points. The only elements of QOF which practices will be not be able to opt out of during the period to 31 March 2017 are the indicators found below:

- Maintenance of all validated disease registers
- Influenza targets (CHD007, STIA009, DM018, COPD007)
- Cervical Cytology targets CS002
- Palliative care: PC002
- Cancer: CAN003
- Areas related to treatment and diagnosis including AF006/007; HF002/003/004; PAD004; MH009/MH 010;

We recognise that many practices will have plans in place or will already have largely completed areas of QOF work, and we also recognise that clinicians will continue to

opportunistically code QOF information during consultations. However we hope that this flexibility will go some way to recognise the pressure general practice is facing and reduce the time spent on end of year bureaucracy.

We will continue to work collaboratively between the CCGs and the LMC on the impact of this initiative and evaluating the outcome.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation.

Yours faithfully



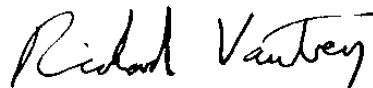
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