



Cymru Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

11 January 2018

Relaxation of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) up to March 2018

Dear colleagues

Welsh Government and the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) Wales have agreed the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) element of the General Medical Services (GMS) contract will be relaxed until 31 March 2018. The relaxation of QOF comes into effect from 1 January 2018. The supporting legal Directions will be issued shortly.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services made the decision as part of the range of measures to help NHS Wales manage the current demand on the health service as a whole. The relaxation of QOF is recognition of the specific pressure faced by everyone who works in general practice. Whilst the actual amount of time freed as a result of relaxing QOF is difficult to quantify, the Welsh Government and GPC Wales agreed that the action was necessary to enable GPs and their teams to focus efforts on caring for their most vulnerable and chronically sick patients during the winter period.

The 2017/18 QOF element of the GMS contract consists of 3 parts, the active clinical domain – 175 points; inactive clinical domain – 202 points; and the cluster network domain – 200 points; a total of 567 points. Under the measures, GMS contractors can discontinue participation in the majority of QOF targets for the period to 31 March 2018. The action taken applies to all 3 domains; the only indicators not relaxed are FLU001W and FLU002W.

GMS contractors will not be financially penalised by the relaxation of QOF. At the year end for each indicator practices will be paid the better of the points achieved in 2017/18 or the points used for payment at the end of 2016/17 (due to QOF suspension in 2016/17 this may be the points achieved in 2015/16). Practices will not be required to notify health boards of their intention to opt out. A frequently asked questions sheet has been developed.

The action taken has been made possible by the good working relationship between Welsh Government and GPC Wales. Both sides are committed to working positively and collaboratively to improve general practice and services to patients.

Finally, thank you to you and your staff for your continued hard work.

Yours sincerely

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