

NHS Birmingham and Solihull  
Clinical Commissioning Group  
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Dear colleague

### **Suspension of 2019/20 QOF and Local Incentive Schemes (LIS)**

It is recognised that COVID-19 is putting increasing pressure on already busy practices, and in light of the expected increase to the escalation level, the CCG has made the decision to suspend the 2019/20 QOF scheme.

The suspension will be in place until 31 March 2020 and will be reviewed pending national guidance and the level of threat. Other current LIS schemes will be clinically reviewed over the next few days, to decide which of these can also be suspended safely.

Practices should also consider how they presently use extended hours DES and, if capacity to deliver these services is affecting the delivery of normal GP personal medical services, consideration should be given to suspending these services.

Practices will have done an enormous amount of work to deliver these schemes throughout the year and we are keen to ensure that practices are not penalised financially by the move. We will take into account the national guidance that has been published today.

Many practices may already have patients booked in or there may be some circumstances whereby practices wish to continue to monitor patients under these schemes, and in these cases, practices are asked to consider alternative means of consultation for example telephone or video consultations.

Thank you for your support in this matter, our aim is to support the national guidance and stop bringing high risk patients to Surgery and ensure that practices are not financially penalised in doing so.

Yours sincerely,

**Karen Helliwell**  
**Director of Integration**