**2019 Data Specifications**

**Updates**

**October 15, 2019**

**SUBJECT:** Register for an iQIES Account - Action Required

Dear Home Health Agency (HHA):

The Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES), which providers and vendors use to submit assessment data, is being upgraded to make the system more reliable, scalable, secure, and accessible. The enhancements will occur in phases (by provider type) and began with Long- Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) in March 2019, followed by Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) in October 2019 and Home Health Agencies (HHAs) in January 2020. The enhanced system is referred to as the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES).

The rollout of iQIES will not require providers or vendors to change current processes related to submission of data. However, iQIES will require a new user management system because virtual private network (VPN) and CMSNet are no longer needed to access this system. All users will have to create an account and establish credentials in the Healthcare Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access, Roles and Profile system (HARP). HARP is a secure identity management portal that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides.

Through HARP, the level of access for iQIES will be similar to the roles that exist in QIES but with the addition of a Provider Security Official (PSO). The individual designated as the PSO will be responsible for approving or rejecting iQIES user access requests for their respective organizations, including vendors. For your organization to receive access to iQIES, you must first identify a PSO. For instructions on obtaining access to iQIES, descriptions of the iQIES roles applicable to HHAs and important iQIES information, please refer to the following link: <https://qtso.cms.gov/news-and-updates/register-iqies-account-action-required-1>.

**Please note that at this time, only certified Home Health Agencies will be onboarded to iQIES. For questions, please contact our service desk at:** **help@qtso.com or by phone: 800-339-9313.**

*\*\*\*Although onboarding for HHAs is in progress, iQIES assessment submission functionality for HHAs will not be available until January 1, 2020. Although this functionality will not be available immediately, we encourage HHA security officials to request access to iQIES as soon as possible. CMS advises that HHAs register two security officials, if possible, as doing so will allow for a smoother transition prior to the January go live date. Upon receiving access, security officials will have access to ‘My Profile’ and ‘Help’ in iQIES.* ***Please note that failure to obtain access to iQIES prior to December 23, 2019 will impact your ability to submit assessment data needed for payment purposes, as the system will have a scheduled downtime so that the data migration can occur in preparation for the January 1, 2020 release. Claims that cannot be matched to assessments will be returned to the HHA, preventing Medicare payment.***

To comply with federal security mandates, CMS is initiating new security requirements for access control to CMS Quality Systems through Remote Identify Proofing (RIDP) via HARP. Users will need to create an account in HARP to gain access to the iQIES system. CMS has prepared a fact sheet with more information about this process. To view the fact sheet, visit: <https://qtso.cms.gov/news-and-updates/remote-identify-proofing-requirements-internet-quality-improvement-evaluation-0>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to HARP can be accessed using the following link: <https://harp.qualitynet.org/login/help>

**August 02, 2019**

**SUBJECT: Register for an iQIES Account - Action Required**

Dear Home Health Agency (HHA):

The Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES), which providers and vendors use to submit assessment data, is being upgraded to make the system more reliable, scalable, secure, and accessible. The enhancements will occur in phases (by provider type) and began with Long- Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) in March 2019, to be followed by Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) in October 2019 and Home Health Agencies (HHAs) in January 2020. The enhanced system is referred to as the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES).

The initial rollout of iQIES will not change how providers or vendors submit data. However, iQIES will require a new user management system because virtual private network (VPN) and CMSNet are no longer needed to access this system. All users will have to create an account and establish credentials in the Healthcare Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access, Roles and Profile system (HARP). HARP is a secure identity management portal that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides.

Through HARP, the level of access for iQIES will be similar to the roles that exist in QIES but with the addition of a Provider Security Official (PSO). The individual designated as the PSO will be responsible for approving or rejecting iQIES user access requests for their respective organizations, including vendors.

***For your organization to receive access to iQIES, your organization must first complete the steps below according to the following schedule:***

1. **Identify** an individual who will be the Provider Security Official (PSO).
2. **Register** the PSO in the Healthcare Quality Information System (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system at: <https://harp.qualitynet.org/register/profile-info>.
3. After your MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication) is complete, choose the iQIES application presented to you to request your Security Official role. Alternatively, you can access iQIES at the following URL: <https://iqies.cms.gov/> to complete your role request.

For assistance with HARP onboarding, users can call the QTSO Helpdesk at (800) 339-9313 or e-mail [help@qtso.com](mailto:help@qtso.com). If you have any questions related to iQIES, please send them to [iQIES\_Broadcast@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:iQIES_Broadcast@cms.hhs.gov).

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| **Onboarding Start Date** | **Home Health Provider’s State** |
| 08/01/2019 | CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT |
| 08/01/2019 | DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV |
| 09/01/2019 | IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI |
| **Onboarding Start Date** | **Home Health Provider’s State** |
| 09/01/2019 | AR, LA, NM, OK, TX |
| 10/02/2019 | AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN |
| 10/02/2019 | IA, KS, MO, NE |
| 10/02/2019 | CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY |
| 10/02/2019 | AK, ID, OR, WA |
| 11/01/2019 | NJ, NY, PR, VI |
| 11/01/2019 | AZ, CA, GU, HI, MP, NV |

**Please note that at this time, only certified Home Health Agencies will be onboarded to iQIES. For questions, please contact our service desk at:** **help@qtso.com or by phone: 800-339-9313 with any questions.**

***\*\*\*Although onboarding for HHAs will begin in August, iQIES assessment submission functionality for HHAs will not be available until January 1, 2020. Although this functionality will not be available immediately, we encourage HHA security officials to request access to iQIES as soon as onboarding for your organization’s state has begun. CMS advises that HHAs register two security officials, if possible, as doing so will allow for a smoother transition prior to the January go live date. Upon receiving access, security officials will have access to ‘My Profile’ and ‘Help’ in iQIES.***

To comply with federal security mandates, CMS is initiating new security requirements for access control to CMS Quality Systems through Remote Identify Proofing (RIDP) via HARP. Users will need to create an account in HARP to gain access to the iQIES system. CMS has prepared a fact sheet with more information about this process. To view the fact sheet, visit: <https://qtso.cms.gov/news-and-updates/remote-identify-proofing-requirements-internet-quality-improvement-evaluation-0>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to HARP can be accessed using the following link: <https://harp.qualitynet.org/login/help>

**June 27, 2019**

**Enhanced Assessment Submission & Processing System/User Tool for Home Health Providers for January 1, 2020**

In March 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began delivering a series of enhancements to the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES). The upgraded system, called the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES), is an Internet facing, cloud-based system that is more reliable, intuitive, secure, and accessible. iQIES will be rolled out to post-acute care providers using a phased approach that began with Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs), to be followed by Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) in October 2019. Home Health Agencies (HHAs) will be able to receive access to iQIES starting in July 2019 as part of the upcoming release on January 1, 2020. In January 2020, HHAs will have access to a new patient assessment upload and reporting interface that will replace the current Assessment Submission & Processing (ASAP) and the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) submission and reporting systems. This release will also include the ability for HHA providers and vendors to create assessments in iQIES, replacing the jHAVEN user tool. In addition, this release will include survey and certification functionality for HHAs.

What to Expect/Future Communications For additional information about the release of iQIES for HHAs, the following communications will be made available in coming weeks and in the next several months:

- iQIES Provider Security Official Request Letter – Instructions on how your organization can assign a “Provider Security Official” and begin the account creation process. A Provider Security Official will need to obtain this access in iQIES in order to approve access requests for your organization. We expect to start onboarding HHA Security officials in July 2019; onboarding for HHAs will continue for several months and will follow a schedule according to your organization’s state (details will be included in these instructions, to be sent in coming weeks).

- iQIES Training Video Announcement – Resources for how to navigate the iQIES system and how to utilize the improved functionality.

- iQIES XML Upload/Assessment Tool Release Announcement- Announcement of January 1, 2020 GoLive date for HHAs

- iQIES FAQs – Frequently asked questions that will be updated periodically based on end-user feedback to improve the overall experience.

\*\*\*Although onboarding for HHAs will begin in July, iQIES assessment submission functionality will not be available until January 1, 2020. Although this functionality will not be available immediately, we encourage HHA security officials to request access to iQIES as soon as onboarding for your organization’s state has begun. Upon receiving access, security officials will have access to ‘My Profile’ and ‘Help’ in iQIES.

For More Information

Visit the [http://qtso.cms.gov](https://qtso.cms.gov/)website, or contact our service desk at: [help@qtso.com](mailto:help@qtso.com)or by phone: 800- 339-9313 with any questions.

**May 24, 2019**

A specifications document providing technical details for OASIS-D1, effective January 1, 2020, is now available in the Downloads section below. These specifications supplement the information provided in the OASIS-D1 Update memorandum revised and posted May 2019 at /Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.

Final technical specifications for OASIS-D1 will be posted once they are available.

**CMS is updating the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System**

Starting in March, the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES), Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) and Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN) will undergo a series of modernizing enhancements. Once updated, the system will be called the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). The iQIES system will not change how providers currently submit data to CMS.

The new enhancements in iQIES are based on user research and testing and feature a human-centered design and agile development practices. CMS is phasing in the iQIES system beginning with Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCH). Several updates to the QIES- Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system are also planned. The Cloud-based solutions will also make it easier for users to receive support and use the system.

iQIES Details:

* Users will no longer need a virtual private network (VPN) or CMSNet to access the system. iQIES is Internet-facing and maintains the latest system architecture and security standards.
* System enhancements support flexible and user-friendly data reports for providers, allowing them to use real-time data for care planning as well as quality monitoring and improvement.
* Users can access important information for work anywhere, at any time, on mobile devices, laptops, and tablets.

CMS will be sharing more information about iQIES such as onboarding, stakeholder engagement opportunities, training, and general updates soon!

If you have questions, please contact our service desk at: [help@qtso.com](mailto:help@qtso.com) or by phone: 800-339-9313.

**OASIS Data Specifications V2.30.1**

The OASIS Data Submission Specifications Version 2.30.1 are now available in the downloads section below. This FINAL version applies to the OASIS-D item set which is scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2019. Please note that, in addition to incorporating the issues identified previously in Errata Document V2.30.1, there were a few more revisions to the final specs. The edits for the M1311 items were revised, since the dash [-] is now an allowed value. Edit -4211 was replaced by edit -5680. Several edits for GG items were revised, as the caret [^] is not an allowed value for some of the items. Edit -5510 was revised to include only a subset of the Discharge Goal items. Please review the Item Change and Edit Change Reports for entries beginning with “[V2.30.1]” for additional details.

**Errata Document V2.30.1 for OASIS Data Specifications V2.30.0**

An errata document for the OASIS Data Submission Specifications Version 2.30.0 has been posted in the Downloads section below.  Three issues have been identified. As a result, one new edit, -5670, has been added to the M1028 items. Also, item M1860\_CRNT\_AMBLTN has been restored to RFAs 04 and 05, as it had been inadvertently removed from them. Furthermore, three edits were deleted from the M1021/M1023 items, as they referenced the M1025 items that have been deleted in OASIS-D.

**OASIS Data Specifications V2.30.0**

The OASIS Data Submission Specifications Version 2.30.0 are now available in the downloads section below. This DRAFT version applies to the OASIS-D item set which is scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2019. There are a large number of changes in this release. Many items have been deleted, while Sections GG and J have been added. Please review the Item Change and Edit Change Reports for the details.

**Downloads**

* [OASIS-C Data Submission Specs v2.10.1 (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASISDataSubmissionSpecs.zip)
* [OASIS-C1 Data Submission Specs v2.11.3 (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C1-Data-Sub-Specs.zip)
* [OASIS-C and OASIS-C1 errata for v2.10 and v2.11 Data Specifications (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C-and-OASIS-C1-ERRATA.zip)
* [OASIS-C2 Data Submission Specs v2.20.0 DRAFT (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C2-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-20-0-Draft.zip)
* [OASIS-C1 Data Submission Specs v2.12.0 (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C1-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-12-0-.zip)
* [Errata for OASIS-C1 Data Submission Specs v2.12.0 - Updated 11-19-2015 (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/Errata-OASIS-C1-Data-Submission-Specs.pdf)
* [CMS-R-245 (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/Downloads/CMS-R-245.zip)
* [Errata v2.21.1 for OASIS-C2 Data Submission Specs v2.21.0 (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/Errata-v2-21-1-OASIS-C2-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-21-0.pdf)
* [OASIS-C2 Data Submission Specs v2.20.1 FINAL (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C2-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-20-1-FINAL.zip)
* [Errata v2.20.3 for OASIS-C2 Data Submission Specs v2.20.0 (PDF)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/Errata-v2-20-3-OASIS-C2-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-20-0.pdf)
* [OASIS-C2 Data Submission Specs v2.21.0 DRAFT (ZIP)](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/OASIS/Downloads/OASIS-C2-Data-Submission-Specs-v2-21-0-DRAFT.zip)