

Data Specifications Archive

December 16, 2019

Subject: Avoid Payment Delays: Register for an iQIES Account Now (Action Required)

Greetings Home Health Agencies,

This notification serves as a FINAL reminder that you must complete the onboarding process required to gain access to iQIES as soon as possible. Failure to obtain access to iQIES prior to December 23, 2019 could impact your ability to submit assessment data needed for payment purposes beginning January 1, 2020. Claims that cannot be matched to assessments because an organization was not registered in iQIES will be returned to you, preventing Medicare payment. In order to comply with the OASIS 2.31.0 data specifications that go into effect January 1, 2020 Home Health Agencies (HHAs) must be registered in iQIES.

Completing onboarding by December 23, 2019 will allow you time to avoid some common onboarding delays, such as system downtime in preparation for the January 1 release, and possibly the need to utilize the manual proofing process when registering with HARP. In addition, CMS anticipates a surge in iQIES access requests as January 1st approaches, increasing the chances of delays in help desk response times.

If your organization has not yet requested access to iQIES, we recommend that you request access as soon as possible. For instructions on obtaining access, descriptions of roles available to your organization and other important iQIES information, please refer to the onboarding guide link: https://qtso.cms.gov/system/files/qtso/iQIESOnboardingGuide-WebVersion_0.pdf.

Please note that at this time, only certified HHAs will be onboarded to iQIES. For technical assistance, please contact our service desk at: iqies@cms.hhs.gov or by phone: 800-339-9313.

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> website, or contact our service desk at: igies@cms.hhs.gov 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: igies@cms.hhs.gov or by phone: 800-339-9313.