



QTSO MEMORANDUM

MEMO NBR: 2006-122
TO: QIES State Coordinators
CC: CMS Central and Regional Office Contacts
FROM: Chris Alleman, QIES Technical Support Office
DATE: November 17, 2006
SUBJECT: **Scheduled Downtime – November, 2006**

The regularly scheduled monthly downtime will occur on Sunday, November 19, 2006. No action by the states or Regional Office staff is required.

Software affected by this downtime:

- OASIS Submission will **not** be available
- IRF/SWING Submission will **not** be available
- MDS Submission will **not** be available
- ACO, ARO, ACTS, ACTS-RO, and AEM will **not** be available
- CASPER Reports (including OBQI/OBQM, etc.) will **not** be available
- National systems will **not** be available
- ASE **will** be available

The following enhancement(s) will be completed during the downtime:

National MDS Roster Report/Sub_req 2 Residents

- Beginning Sunday, November 19, 2006, new Sub_req 2 residents will not be replicated to the National MDS Roster Report table.
- A future release will be deployed to remove Sub_req 2 residents currently stored on the National MDS Roster Report table.
- Sub_req 2 residents will continue to be available on the End of the Month Roster Report and the Roster Report obtained via DMS.

MDS Monthly Submission Statistic Report

- The MDS Monthly Submission Statistic Report will now be available as part of the QI/QM Package reports.
- The default for this report will be “unchecked.” To request this report as part of the QI/QM package, check the box to the left of the report name.

HHA Preview Reports/Home Health Compare Website Background

- In accordance with the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), the HHA Preview Reports will be made available to Home Health Agencies on an annual basis. The reports will be placed in a shared folder in CASPER for each agency to view their demographic and quality measure data prior to public posting on the Home Health Compare website.
- The HHA Preview Reports will be available every November for a time frame of July 1 of the previous year through June 30 of the current year.

Accessing Preview Reports

Agencies should use the following steps to access the Preview Reports in CASPER:

1. Log into CASPER via the OASIS Welcome Page
2. Select Folder Tab
3. Select the Shared Folder Link which displays as: * State ID HHA Agency ID for example, *IA HHA HLISA01.
4. Select Report link for viewing

Policy Information

The following is policy information regarding the HHA Preview Reports:

- Section 5201(c) (2) of the DRA added section 1895(b) (3) (B) (v) (II) to the Social Security Act (heretofore referred to as "the Act"), requiring that "each Home Health Agency shall submit to the Secretary such data that the Secretary determines are appropriate for the measurement of health care quality. Such data shall be submitted in a form and manner, and at a time, specified by the Secretary for purposes of this clause." This Section of the Act provides the Secretary with the discretion to submit the required data in a form, manner, and time specified by him.
- Section 5201(c) (2) of the DRA also added section 1895(b) (3) (B) (v) (I) to the Act, which dictates that "for 2007 and each subsequent year, in the case of a Home Health Agency that does not submit data to the Secretary in accordance with subclause (II) with respect to such a year, the home health market basket percentage increase applicable under such clause for such year shall be reduced by 2 percentage points."
- Section 1895(b) (3) (B) (v) (III) of the Act further requires that the "Secretary shall establish procedures for making data submitted under subclause (II) available to the public." Additionally, the statute requires that "such procedures shall ensure that a Home Health Agency has the opportunity to review the data that is to be made public with respect to the agency prior to such data being made public."
- In accordance with Section 1895 (b) (3) (B) (v) (III) of the Act, CMS will provide data submitted under subclause (II) to Home Health Agencies prior to that data being made public. The procedure to carry this action out will be in the form of HHA Preview Reports which will be available to HHAs from 11/20/2006 through 12/8/2006.

Home Health Compare Website Refresh Schedule

Home Health Compare is refreshed quarterly; in 2007, the refresh will occur as follows:

| Refresh Date | Reporting Period |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| March 29, 2007 | October 2005 – September 2006 |
| June 28, 2007 | January 2006 – December 2006 |
| September 27, 2007 | April 2006 – March 2007 |
| December 20, 2007 | July 2006 – June 2007 |

(Preview Reports are available from November 19 through December 7)

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact the QTSO Help Desk at mds_help@ifmc.org or 1 (888) 477-7876.