

Unlocking iQIES: The big changes coming for CMS account security

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Learning objectives



At the end of this short learning lab session, attendees will:

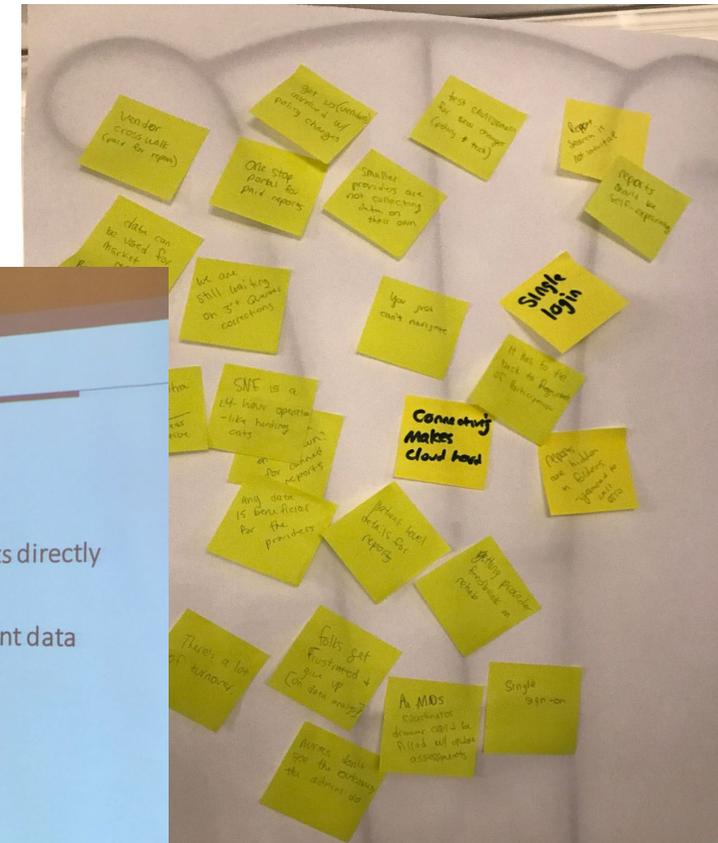
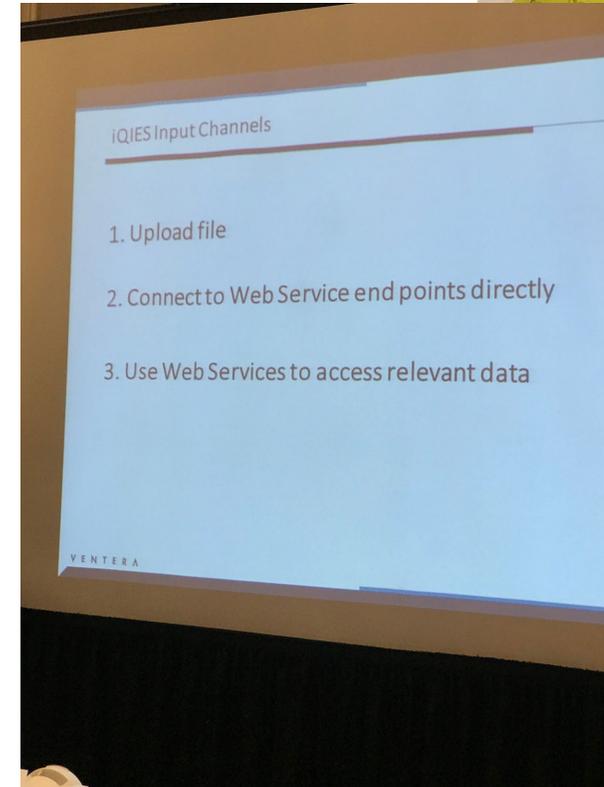
- Know what the new CMS “iQIES” system is and how to gain access.
- Understand why it’s important to SNFs.
- Know how to prepare for the changes.

A little iQIES background

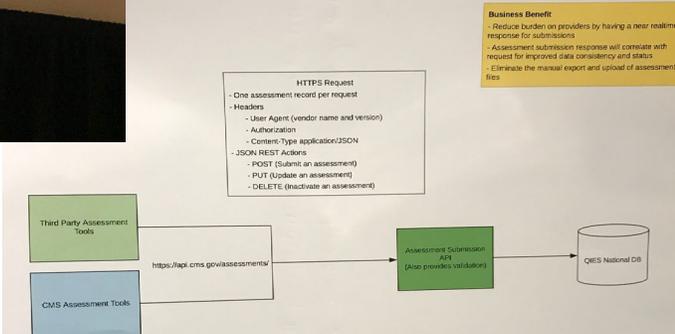
Stands for “internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System” (iQIES)

- iQIES will replace and consolidate functionality from the QIES, CASPER and ASPEN legacy systems
- Works in tandem with the new CMS HARP system. **To create an iQIES account, you must have a HARP account.**

I first became aware of iQIES in February 2018 at the NASL conference in Washington, DC.



Proposed Patient Assessment Submission API



Photos from the 2018 NASL Conference.

What is iQIES?



Access to iQIES requires a HARP account



All users must create a HARP account to access iQIES

To comply with federal security mandates, CMS is initiating new security requirements for access control to CMS Quality Systems via the HCQIS Access, Roles and Profile system (HARP). In order to access iQIES, users will need to create an account and establish credentials in HARP.

You can create an account here:

<https://harp.qualitynet.org/>

The screenshot shows the CMS.gov HARP login interface. At the top, it says 'CMS.gov | HARP' and '© Help Login'. The main heading is 'CMS.gov | HARP' followed by 'HCQIS Access Roles and Profile'. The central 'Login' form asks the user to 'Enter your user ID and password to login.' It contains two input fields: 'User ID *' and 'Password *'. Below these is a link for 'Having trouble logging in?' and a checkbox for 'I agree to the Terms & Conditions*'. A blue 'Login' button is positioned below the checkbox. At the bottom of the form, there is a link: 'Don't have an account? Sign Up'. The footer of the page includes the text 'Want to participate in HARP user feedback sessions? Contact us to sign up' and a navigation bar with links to 'CMS.gov', 'QualityNet.org', 'Help', 'Training Videos', and 'Contact Help Desk'. The Department of Health and Human Services logo is also present in the bottom right corner.

Access to iQIES requires a HARP account

A few important things to note about HARP accounts:

1. The new account process is a **MAJOR CHANGE** from the previous way that CMS did user accounts.
2. Only individuals (not entities) can create an account.
3. Creating an account requires a remote identity proofing process through Experian. This is essentially a **credit background check** that asks a series of questions from your credit report.

And one other note on security... the new system requires 2-Factor authentication.

Create an Account
HCQIS Access Roles and Profile

1 Profile Information 2 Account Information 3 Remote Proofing 4 Confirmation

Profile Information

Enter your profile information for identity proofing. HARP uses Experian to help verify your identity. Already called Experian? [Enter Reference Number](#)

Want to retry a previously failed registration attempt? [Retry Remote Proofing](#)

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Legal First Name *

Legal Last Name *

Middle Initial

Date of Birth *

Email Address *

Confirm Email Address *

Phone Number

Is your address in the United States? * Yes No

Home Address Line 1 *

Home Address Line 2

City *

State *

ZIP Code *

ZIP Code Extension

Social Security Number *

Don't want to enter your SSN? [Initiate Manual Proofing](#)

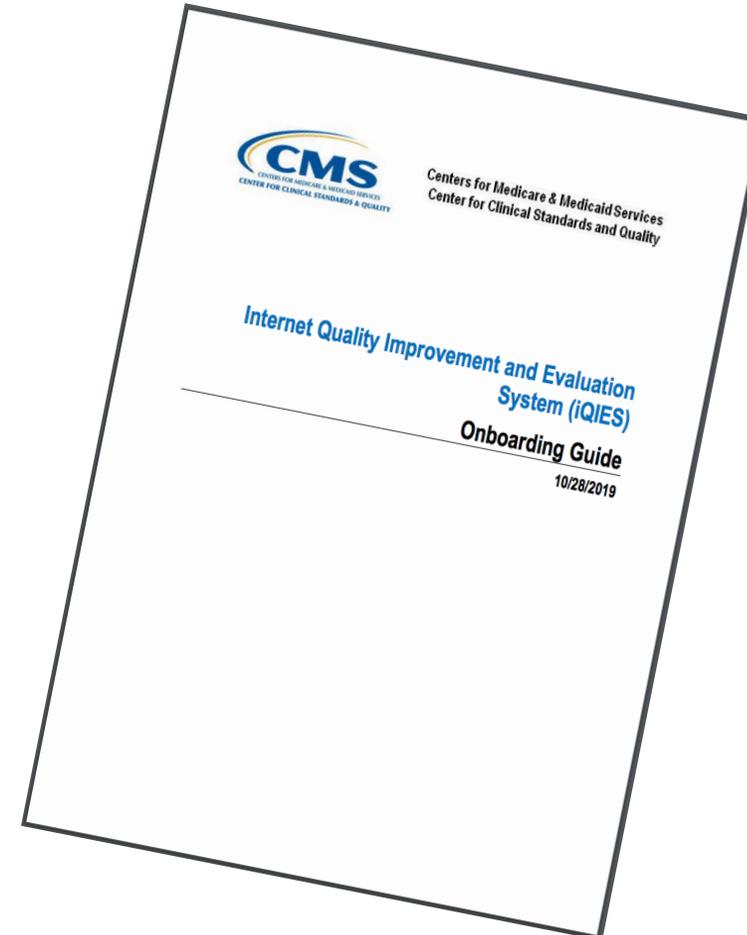
I agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#)*

Access to iQIES requires a HARP account



CMS has a 14-page instruction document if you want to know more details or have problems. You can access it [here](#).

Once you have a HARP account, you will be able to set up an iQIES account and be assigned a user role.



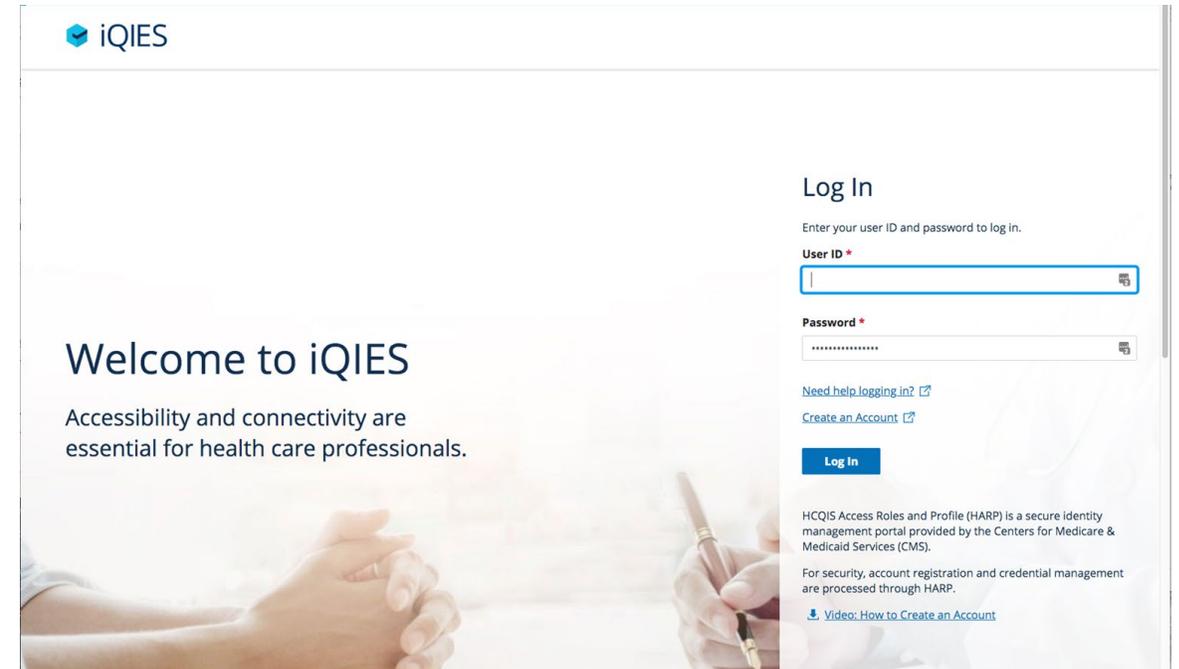
Where to find iQIES online



You can access the iQIES portal at...

<https://iqies.cms.gov/>

This will eventually be the new home at CMS for everything assessment and quality related (MDS, OASIS, etc.).



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Understand iQIES User roles



The new iQIES portal contains several user roles which are much more specific than the previous system. Users will need to be assigned based on their role.

Table 1 - User Roles

User Role	Description
Assessment Submitter	The Assessment Submitter role has the ability to upload patient assessments (XML/zip files) and is also able to generate and view reports.
Provider Administrator	The Provider Administrator role can create and manage patient profiles. This role is also able to create, manage, submit, modify, and deactivate patient assessments. This role is able to generate and view reports. This role cannot upload patient assessments.
Provider Assessment Coordinator	The Provider Assessment Coordinator role is able to create and manage patient profiles, as well as create, manage and submit patient assessments. This role is able to generate and view reports. This role cannot upload patient assessments.
Provider Assessment Viewer	The Provider Assessment Viewer role is limited to finding and viewing patient profiles and their assessments. This role is able to generate and view reports. This role cannot upload patient assessments.
Provider Security Official	The Security Provider Official role is responsible for approving or rejecting iQIES user access for organizations in HARP. Security officials can also upload, create, manage, submit, modify, and deactivate patient assessments; create and manage patient profiles; and generate and view reports.

How to prepare



It's important for SNFs to be prepared for the iQIES transition



The iQIES changes have the potential to be **disruptive** to SNFs:

- All current staff with CMS credentials will have to create new accounts (no “grandfathering” of old accounts)
- No more sharing passwords at facilities.
- Automations tools will break.
- Staff individuals may be leary of using their personal identifying information to setup new accounts.
- Roles will need to be defined. For example, who will be your security officer?

The big question...when?



- CMS went live with Home Health agency reporting (OASIS assessments) on January 1, 2020.
- SNFs will be next, but when? The date has been pushed back and is still TBD.

Summary



- iQIES is the new CMS system for uploading MDS and downloading CASPER reports, among other things.
- It will be a major change from the current system and will require a more complex and sophisticated login system (known as HARP).
- iQIES will require SNF providers to maintain user roles.
- The go live date is still to be determined.
- Providers should start to plan for the transition ahead of the go live date.

Resources



More info and video tutorials from CMS are available:

[CMS Onboarding guide](#)

[YouTube video tutorials on iQIES:](#)

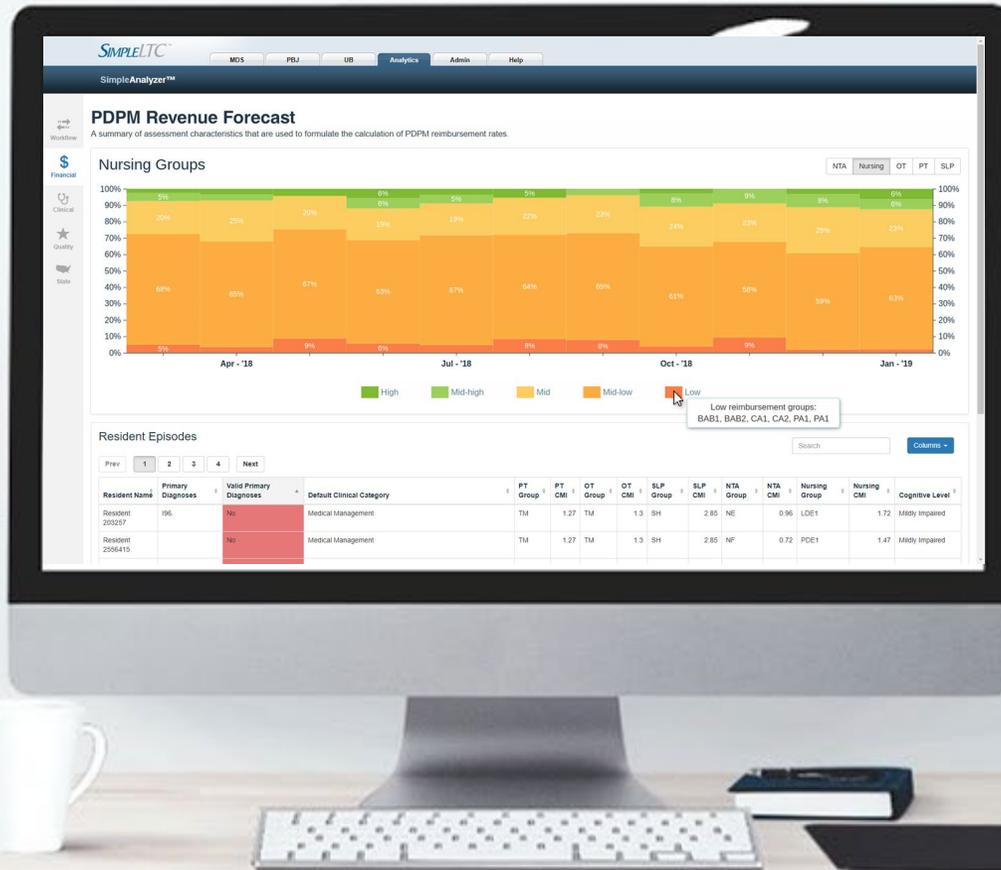
If you have questions, please feel free to email me directly:

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