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## OVERVIEW

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## OVERVIEW OF THE QIES ASAP SYSTEM FOR LTCH CARE SUBMISSIONS

The Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system provides a standard, nationwide system to which several types of healthcare providers submit CMS-required patient/resident information to the National Submissions Database.

LTCH CARE data set submission and processing is one part of the QIES ASAP system. The QIES ASAP system provides computerized storage, access, and analysis of the LTCH CARE data for patients in Long Term Care Hospitals across the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

The QIES ASAP system provides for the following functions:

- Receipt and storage of LTCH CARE data at the National Submissions Database
- Authentication and validation of LTCH CARE data
- In conjunction with the CASPER Reporting application, the QIES ASAP system generates feedback to LTCH providers acknowledging receipt of submitted CARE data and the status of record validation. Providers may select from numerous reports that are available in the CASPER Reporting application to access information about the LTCH CARE data they submitted.

Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the QIES ASAP system architecture for LTCH providers. It illustrates the communication components and database repository.

**Figure 2-1. Overview of the QIES ASAP LTCH System Architecture**

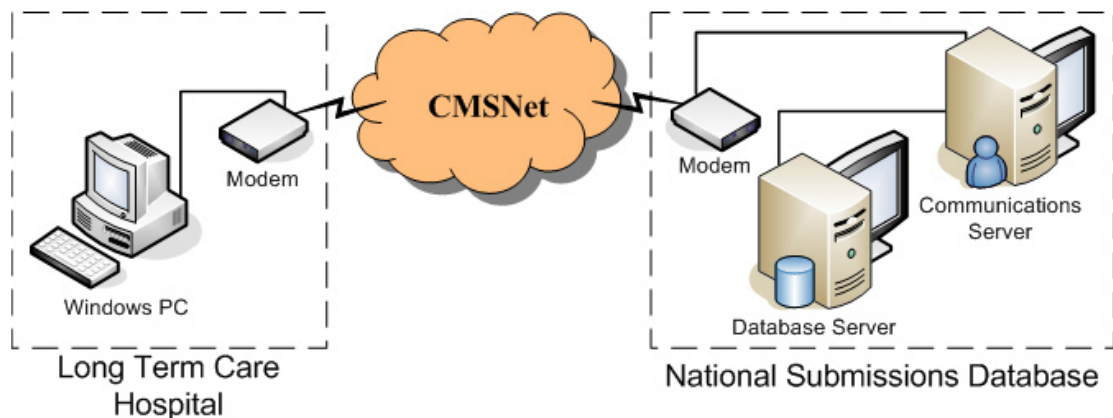


Figure 2-1 serves to illustrate the flow of LTCH CARE data submissions. At each hospital, a Windows PC is used to access the QIES ASAP LTCH CARE Submission system on a secure, private wide area network (CMSNet) and electronically send a compressed (zipped) file containing one or more LTCH CARE data records to the National Submissions Database.

**NOTE:** The successful receipt of a submission file does not necessarily mean that all of the *individual LTCH CARE data records* in that file validated successfully. A submission file may contain multiple LTCH CARE data records, some of which may validate properly while others do not.

The submission file is unzipped and the LTCH CARE data record(s) it contains are validated to ensure compliance with data specifications. Accepted LTCH CARE data records are stored in the National Submissions Database.

A validation report is generated detailing the status of the submission file and the LTCH CARE data records it contained. The *Reports* section of this user's guide describes the validation reports available to LTCH providers.

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## HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

A document specifying the minimum hardware and software configurations required to transmit LTCH CARE records to the National Submissions Database of the QIES ASAP system is available on the QIES Technical Support Office (QTSO) Home page (<https://qtso.cms.gov>). The required hardware and software, or information on how to order it, is readily available from most computer stores.

Should you encounter difficulty in verifying your existing system hardware and software configuration, contact your hospital computer support personnel, the specific hardware and software vendors, or the vendor who provided you with LTCH CARE data encoding software, as appropriate.

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## RECOMMENDED TRAINING

Whether formal or informal, training in the software applications associated with the QIES ASAP LTCH CARE Submission system is helpful. Training in Windows and Internet Explorer is recommended. You can usually obtain training in these applications from a software vendor, local computer store, college or university, or from your LTCH CARE data encoding software vendor. A basic level of familiarity with these software applications, in addition to the operation of your PC and modem greatly facilitates the use of the QIES ASAP LTCH CARE Submission system.

In instances where software manuals or guides are not available, you may check with your local computer store for recommended reference guides. Both Internet Explorer and Windows have online help available to assist you.

**NOTE:** You should receive training from your LTCH CARE data encoding software vendor in how to perform data extracts and prepare files for submission prior to using the QIES ASAP LTCH CARE Submission system. This helps to ensure that your submissions are in the correct format, contain the correct information, and will be accepted by the QIES ASAP system.