



QTSO MEMORANDUM

MEMO

NUMBER: 2023-042]

TO: QIES State Coordinators

CC: CMS Location Contacts

FROM: ATG, QIES Technical Support Office

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

SUBJECT: ASPEN 12.4.1.2 Release Information (ACO/ARO only)

The ASPEN 12.4.1.2 release will be deployed to production on close of business Friday, September 29, 2023. State and CMS staff can begin using ASPEN 12.4.1.2 by the start of business on Monday, October 2, 2023.

The purpose of this ASPEN 12.4.1.2 release is to relax data entry requirements for the CMS Resident Census and Conditions of Residents form 672 of the Nursing Home certification kit. With the revised minimum data set (MDS) item set effective October 1, 2023, the data to complete these fields are no longer available. The ACO/ARO 12.4.1.2 release will only require the resident fields F75, F76, F77, and F78 for entry, and for the form to be considered complete and ready for upload with the rest of the certification kit. The fields for Ombudsman information, F146 and F147, and F148, medication error rate, should also be entered. All other fields of this form may now be left with their default values (blank). This change reflects CMS policy effective October 1, 2023 and affects any surveys being uploaded after that date.

Note: In conjunction with the coming ASPEN 12.4.4.0 release on October 22, 2023, which incorporates the revised MDS data into the LTCSP survey process and the ASPEN MDS Viewer, the CMS-672 form will be entirely removed for new Nursing Home certification kits. The CMS-672 fields noted above will be moved to the CMS-671 form at that time. More information on the ASPEN 12.4.4.0 release will be provided in subsequent QTSO memos.

Included in This Release

This release includes the executable for ACO/ARO only. No other ASPEN products are updated at this time.

Download Information for State Agencies

ASPEN 12.4.1.2 will be provided to your state agency as a standard ASPEN thin install. The planned posting of the thin install to the ASPEN website is by close of business Friday, September 22, 2023 to allow for your agency's release planning.

State ACO thin install download link (this link is not active until the thin install is posted on September 22nd):

http://star.alpinetq.com/upgrade/Thin/ACO12.4.1.2_PR1_Thin.zip

CMS Regional and Central Office Update

No action is necessary by CMS users – this upgrade is automatically applied to your CMS systems and should **not** be downloaded separately from the state link above.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact the ASPEN Help Desk at iqies@cms.hhs.gov or 1 (888) 477-7876.