



## QTSO MEMORANDUM

### MEMO

**NUMBER:** 2024-003  
**TO:** QIES State Coordinators  
**CC:** CMS Central and Regional Office Contacts  
**FROM:** ATG, QIES Technical Support Office  
**DATE:** February 15, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** ASPEN 12.4.4.3: Special Focus Facilities

This is notification of the upcoming ASPEN 12.4.4.3 release. This is a mandatory ACO/ARO-only update that implements automatic uploads for Special Focus Facilities (SFF). There are no changes to user actions or data entry relating to SFF information, but this ACO/ARO 12.4.4.3 software update now makes nursing home SFF data available for national-level reporting and analysis. The SFF information that is uploaded is located on the Other tab of the Facility Properties dialog in ASPEN:

	Begin Date	End Date	
▶	01/01/2024	01/05/2024	+ Add
	01/22/2024	01/26/2024	✎ Modify
	01/29/2024		- Delete

While this release becomes active on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, the posting of the ACO thin install for states only, will be available on the ATG website by COB on Friday, February 16, 2024 to allow for your agency's release planning and preparation.

### For States Only

States may download the ACO 12.4.4.3 Thin Install by 5p MT, Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> using the following link:

[http://star.alpinetg.com/upgrade/Thin/ACO12.4.4.3\\_PR1\\_Thin.zip](http://star.alpinetg.com/upgrade/Thin/ACO12.4.4.3_PR1_Thin.zip)

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**For CMS Users**

No action is needed for this release by CMS users. The update will automatically be applied to your workstation beginning at COB on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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