



QTSO MEMORANDUM

MEMO

NUMBER: 2023-046

TO: QIES State Coordinators

CC: CMS Location Contacts

FROM: Greg Goetzel, QIES Technical Support Office

DATE: October 3, 2023

SUBJECT: ASPEN 12.4.4.0 Release Information

The ASPEN 12.4.4.0 release will be deployed to production on Saturday, October 21, 2023. State and CMS staff can begin using ASPEN 12.4.4.0 by the start of business on Monday, October 23rd.

Included in This Release

This release includes executables for ACO, ACTS, and ASE-Q with updates to ACO, ACTS, AEM, ASE-Q, and LTCSP. Details on application changes are provided below in the Release Notes section of this memo.

Download Information for State Agencies

ASPEN 12.4.4.0 will be provided to your state agency as standard ASPEN thin installs. The planned posting of the thin installs to the ASPEN website is by close of business on Friday, October 13 to allow for your agency's release planning. The download links below are not active until the thin install files are posted on October 13th.

Note: No action is necessary by CMS users – these upgrades are automatically applied to your CMS systems and should not be downloaded separately from these links.

ACO:

http://star.alpinetg.com/upgrade/Thin/ACO12.4.4.0_PR1_Thin.zip

ACTS:

http://star.alpinetg.com/upgrade/Thin/ACTS12.4.4.0_PR1_Thin.zip

ASE-Q:

http://star.alpinetg.com/upgrade/Thin/ASE12.4.4.0_PR1_Thin.zip

Auto-upgrade

For states using auto-upgrade, the ASE-Q/LTCSP upgrade will be posted by COB on Friday October 20th. For CMS Location users, all applications will be deployed automatically to your computers through the auto-upgrade process beginning with logons after close of business on Friday, October 20th.

Transition Information

We recommend all survey team members use the same version of LTCSP; either all upgrading to ASE-Q/LTCSP version 12.4.4.0 or all continuing to use ASE-Q/LTCSP version 12.4.0.

If a survey is exported from ACO version 12.4.4.0, ensure the survey team has upgraded to ASE-Q/LTCSP version 12.4.4.0 prior to going out in the field. The new functionality will not be fully implemented until the application is updated.

Note: If a survey team does have some team members who upgrade to version 12.4.4.0 and some who do not, any data gathered using the new features may be lost.

If teams are mid-survey at the time of release or the team is working with a survey shell exported using ACO version 12.4.0, we recommend all team members postpone updating until they complete their current survey.

If the team has not yet begun a survey using a shell exported using ACO version 12.4.0, the shell can be re-exported answering Yes to the recalculation question and team members would then all upgrade to ASE-Q/LTCSP version 12.4.4.0. The survey team can then use all the new functionality during the survey.

If the team does upgrade mid-survey, they will see some but not all new functionality.

Release Notes

ACO/ARO

Changes were made to support October MDS 3.0 updates and are reflected in the ACO/ARO MDS Viewer. The NH certification kit is also updated to move seven fields from the CMS-672 to the CMS-671, and to make the CMS-672 obsolete for future data entry. For certification kits with a date after the October 22, 2023 release, the CMS-672 form no longer displays when the kit is accessed, and the seven retained 672 fields now appear and are editable on the CMS-671 form. For certification kits with an earlier date, the CMS-672 continues to display for historical reference along with the updated CMS-671 form, but the seven moved fields appear as read-only on the CMS-672 and can only be updated as needed on the CMS-671 form. A revised printable version of the CMS-671 reflecting these new moved fields is included with this release.

Fields being moved from the CMS-672 to the CMS-671:

- Resident Census fields: F75, F76, F77, and F78
- Ombudsman information fields: F146 and F147
- Medication Error Rate: F148

ASE-Q

Changes to support October MDS 3.0 updates are reflected in the ASE-Q MDS viewer.

AEM

The AEM case CMP tab entry and AEM case Notices tab were updated:

1. Beginning 10/23, when an ASPEN user enters an Imposition Notice date in AEM's CMP tab, the Appeal Waiver Due Date defaults to the Imposition Notice Date + 60 calendar days.
2. Beginning 10/23, when an ASPEN user enters details of a notice on the AEM Notice tab, the Appeal Due Date defaults as follows:
 - If the Delivered Date is entered, the Due Date is set to the Delivered Date + 60 calendar days (currently Delivered Date + 65 calendar days)
 - If the Delivered Date is not entered, the Due Date defaults to the earliest of Letter Sent Date + 60 calendar days or Fax Sent Date + 60 days. (currently the earliest of Letter Sent Date + 70 calendar days and Fax Sent Date + 65 days).
3. On 10/21, existing CMPs with an Imposition Notice Date between 8/24/2023 and 10/21/2023 **and** an Appeal Waiver Due Date > the Imposition Notice date + 60 calendar days (this added condition will leave AEM cases properly entered by the state/CMS Location alone) will change to the Imposition Notice Date + 60 calendar days.

LTCSP

Along with changes to support October MDS 3.0 updates, the following revisions were made to the LTCSP software to increase efficiencies, and clarify expectations.

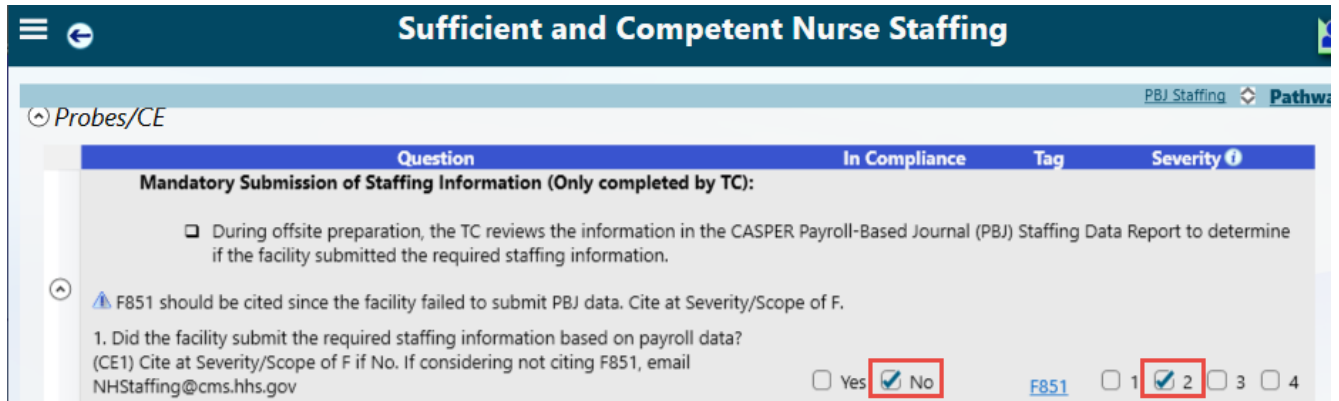
- Failed to submit PBJ data

If Failed to submit PBJ data is selected in Offsite Preparation, a note automatically displays – F851 (CE1) Cite at Severity/Scope of F.

Concern	Selected	FY Quarter	Year	
Low weekend staffing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	2022	
RN coverage for 8 consecutive hours/day	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Licensed nurses for 24 hours/day	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1 star staffing rating	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Failed to submit PBJ data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	2022	F851 (CE1) Cite at Severity/Scope of F.

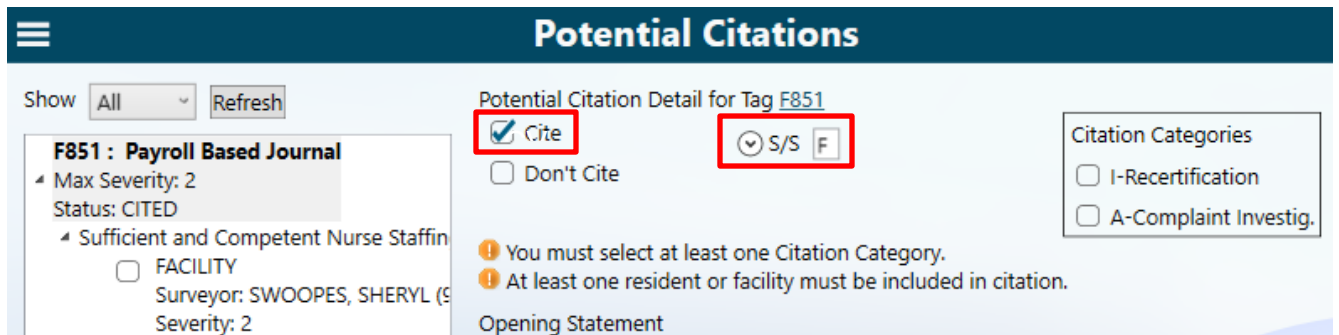
Failed to submit PBJ data selected in Offsite Prep

- Sufficient Staffing CE1 is automatically marked No – not compliant and a severity of 2 is selected when “Failed to submit PBJ data is selected in the Offsite Preparation screen. Assigned surveyors can change No to Yes but a rationale is required. If considering not citing F851, email NHStaffing@cms.hhs.gov.



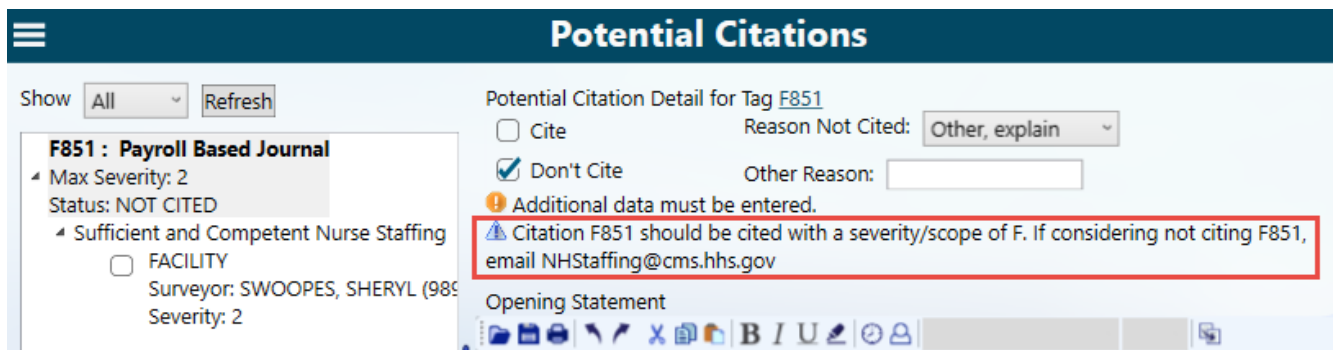
Sufficient and Competent Nurse Staffing CE 1

- Tag F851 pulls forward to Potential Citations. Cite and S/S of F are automatically selected.



Potential Citations window

- Selecting Don't Cite in Potential Citations generates a warning message that Citation F851 should be cited with a severity/scope of F. If considering not citing F851, email NHStaffing@cms.hhs.gov.

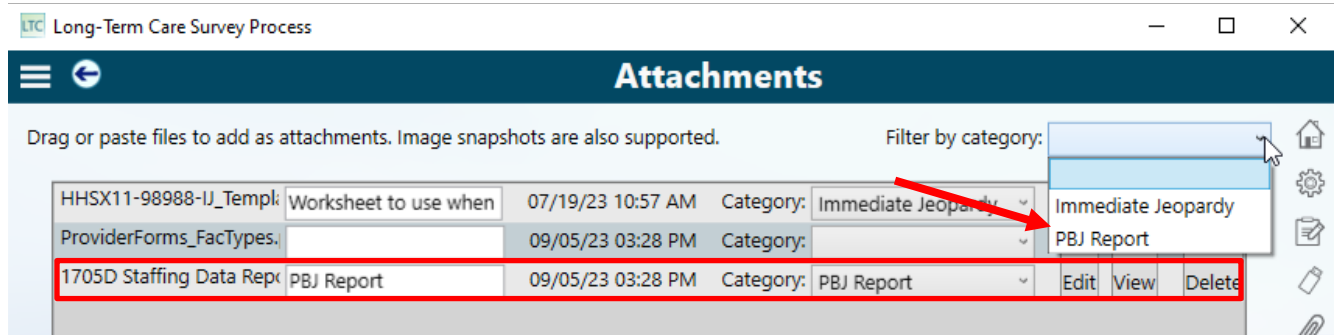


Warning message displays in Potential Citations if select Don't Cite

Attachments

The PBJ Staffing Data Report is labeled 1705D Staffing Data Report when added in the Attachments window and you can now filter by PBJ Report to display only PBJ Staffing Data Reports.

Surveyors will be instructed to add the PBJ Staffing Data Report as an attachment.



Attachments window

Survey documents affected by these changes have been revised and will be placed in the updated Survey Resource Folder on the CMS [Nursing Home webpage](#).

Please remind all surveyors to view mandatory LTCSP software training and CBTs on QSEP, and to download the updated Survey Resource Folder to their desktop on or after 10/23/23.

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