QIES Business Intelligence Center (QBIC) to SAS (Viya) Transition Memo

Background

Legacy QBIC will be sun-setting with the transition of the QIES system out of the Ashburn Data Center (ADC) to the cloud, i.e., Amazon Web Services (AWS). The transition is currently scheduled to be completed on or about August 31, 2020.

The Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ), along with the Information Systems Group (ISG), has selected SAS Viya as the tool / platform to replace QBIC and provide our ad-hoc reporting as well as our data extract capabilities moving forward.

Unlike either the former QIES Workbench (QW) or the soon-to-be-retired QIES Business Intelligence Center (QBIC), SAS is not a custom built tool; it is a Commercial/Consumer Off-the-Shelf (COTS) software package. User interactions with the new tool will definitely differ from prior experiences.

Current Status

The SAS Viya production instance is up and running. We have been allowing CMS (Central and Regional) office staff to select their designated HARP role "iQIES-CMS-Group" and begin to onboard for the past several weeks.

SAS Viya is currently supporting data from two (2) different environments: iQIES for Patient Assessment data and QIES for both Patient Assessment and Survey and Certification (S&C) data.

Note: All S&C data is currently loaded from legacy QIES. iQIES is not supporting S&C activities at this time.

The QBIC/Viya team is loading data incrementally on an iteration-by-iteration basis. In an effort to assist users with knowing what data are available in Viya, a Data Dictionary will be posted on the QIES Technical Support Office (QTSO) website (https://qtso.cms.gov/) so all users can determine what data has been loaded and what has not at any point. We expect to post the initial version of the Data Dictionary by June 30, 2020.

Onboarding

Extract Tool Users

Home Health Agency (HHA) Extract Tool users are the next major user group to be onboarded. Their window for requesting their new role and getting access to Viya is now open.

Next, we plan to allow or specifically approve role-based requests for the remaining group of Extract Tool Users not already onboarded (primarily MDS-oriented users) starting no later than July 20th.

That being said, we recognize that Extract Tool Users may overlap between the Home Health Agency (HHA), Minimum Data Set (MDS), and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) groups. All three (3) roles will be available for those users who do overlap starting from the HHA group, e.g., if you need access to both HHA and MDS data you can submit the requests at the same time; however, actual access to the MDS data will correspond to the aforementioned MDS date of July 20th.

Note: If you need access to more than one group or data set, you will need to submit a separate request for each role.

The specific extract user roles are as follows:

1) iQIES-EXTRACT-TOOL-HHA-Group (Select this role to access HHA Extract Tool Reports)

2) iQIES-EXTRACT-TOOL-IRF-Group (Select this role to access IRF Extract Tool Reports)

3) iQIES-EXTRACT-TOOL-MDS-Group (Select this role to access MDS Extract Tool Reports).

State Agency (SA) Users

The State Agency (SA) user group will follow the Extract Tool users in the onboarding process. We expect the new SA specific user roles will be available in HARP by no later than July 6th.

Specifics about the Roles available for State Agencies will be provided in the form of an update to this memo or as a stand-alone QTSO memo.

Additional Onboarding

We plan to onboard our final group of users, Contractors, QIO's, and QIN's starting August 3rd. More information on those specific roles will be made available as soon as possible.

Training

CMS is currently working to provide the user base with training options as we move forward with SAS Viya.

We recognize that the short duration for migrating from legacy QBIC to Viya highlights the overall need and importance of training to successfully accomplish the transition.

Currently, SAS is providing access to their free e-learning training portal for *CMS employees* through the end of 2020.

Accessing Free e-Learning

Access to free e-Learning is determined by email domain (and is currently only available to CMS employees).

To access free e-Learning, you must log-in to your My Training account using a SAS Profile with your organization email address **@cms.hhs.gov.**

If you do not have an SAS profile, you will need to create one using your organization email address on the SAS website (https://support.sas.com/edu/viewmyelearn.html).

To get access to your organization's free eLearning, follow these instructions:

1. Go to My Training and log in to your profile with your organization's email address.

2. After logging in, scroll to the bottom of your My Training page to **Premiere Customer eLearning.**

3. Click on your organization's name: **US Department of Health and Human Services**

Additional Training Information

The Viya team is working with our co-workers supporting Viya and the Central Data Repository (CDR) for the Information Systems Group (ISG) with respect to additional training options for non-CMS users.

Role-based Training

For other user groups, we are looking at the concept of an ongoing town hall-type process. Additional updates on that concept will be provided as they become available.

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