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## OVERVIEW

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## OVERVIEW OF THE QIES ASAP SYSTEM FOR IRF-PAI 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.

IRF-PAI submission and processing is one part of the QIES ASAP system. The QIES ASAP system provides computerized storage, access, and analysis of the IRF-PAI data for patients in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities across the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

The QIES ASAP system provides for the following functions:

- Receipt and storage of IRF-PAI data at the National Submissions Database
- Authentication and validation of IRF-PAI data
- The CASPER Reporting application associated with the QIES ASAP system generates feedback to IRF providers acknowledging receipt of submitted IRF-PAI 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 IRF-PAI data they submitted.

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

**Figure 2-1. Overview of the QIES ASAP IRF-PAI Submission System**

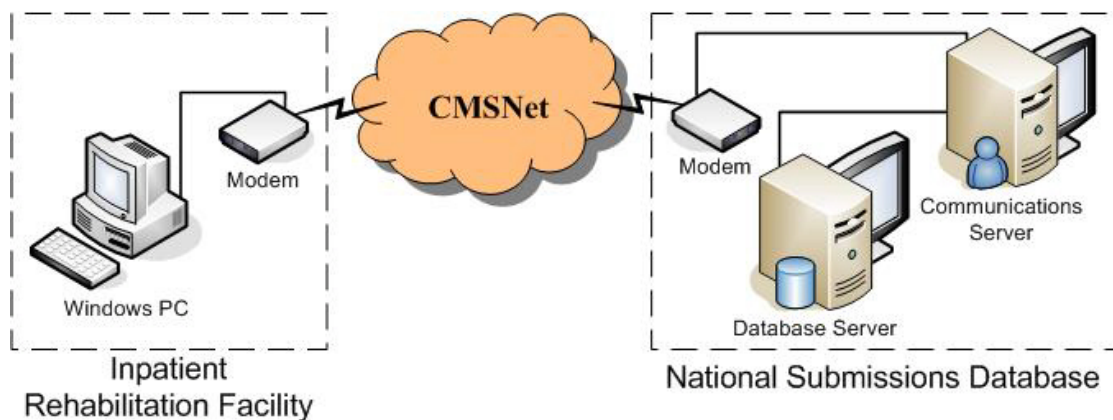


Figure 2-1 serves to illustrate the flow of IRF-PAI data submissions. At each facility, a Windows PC is used to access the QIES ASAP IRF-PAI Submission system on a secure, private wide area network (CMSNet) and electronically send a compressed (zipped) file containing one or more IRF-PAI records to the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

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

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

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

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## HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

A document specifying the minimum hardware and software configurations required to transmit IRF-PAI 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 facility computer support personnel, the specific hardware and software vendors, or the vendor who provided you with IRF-PAI 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 IRF-PAI 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 IRF-PAI data encoding software vendor. A basic level of familiarity with these software applications, in addition to the operation of your PC greatly facilitates the use of the QIES ASAP IRF-PAI 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 IRF-PAI data encoding software vendor in how to perform data extracts and prepare files for submission prior to using the QIES ASAP IRF-PAI 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.