**August 24, 2012**

* Please note web ex training updates related to LTCH CARE Data Submission and LASER found under the below heading: **LTCH Assessment Submission Entry & Reporting (LASER) Updates:**
* We have added a link to the [Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Technical Support Office](http://www.qtso.com/) (please see links below)

**July 18, 2012**

The LTCH CARE Data Submission Specifications have been updated and posted. The new version is V1.00.3. This version addresses all of the issues that were addressed in the errata document that was posted in June, 2012. These data specifications are effective for October, 2012. The previous version (v1.00.2) and its errata document have been removed from the Downloads section. The entry for the submission specifications in the [**Downloads**](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/LTCH-Quality-Reporting/LTCH-Technical-Information.html#downloads) section below links to the zip file that contains the updated files. The files within this .zip are:

* LTCH CARE 1.00 data specs overview (v1.00.3) 07-12-2012.pdf
* LTCH data dictionary (v1.00.3) 07-12-2012.zip
* LTCH data specs CSV files (v1.00.3) 07-12-2012.zip
* LTCH data specs HTML files (v1.00.3) 07-12-2012.zip
* LTCH data specs PDF files (v1.00.3) 07-12-2012.zip

Note that the version history document that was distributed in the prior version of the data specifications has been replaced with an Item Change Report and an Edit Change Report which are contained in the PDF zip file. Also note that the detailed data specifications report is included as both a single file and as a set of files which correspond to each section of the assessment. Finally, the HTML zip file now contains a file that was missing in the previous version: INDEX.HTML. To use the HTML version of the specs, unzip the HTML files to a new folder and open INDEX.HTML with your browser.

**LTCH Assessment Submission Entry & Reporting (LASER) Updates:**

The LTCH CARE Data Set free, downloadable software, the **LTCH Assessment Submission Entry & Reporting (LASER)** user tool, will be made available for downloading in the late summer, 2012. Please continue to visit this website for additional information related to the LASER tool, and user training related to LASER, as more information will be posted as it becomes available.

* CMS wants to ensure that LTCHs are aware of the following technical trainings related to the LTCH CARE Data Submission and LASER that are available for downloading on [www.qtso.com](http://www.qtso.com/):
  1. Data Submission Trainings:
     1. **CMSNet and QIES User ID Registration Training** – Recorded WebEx is **now** posted
     2. **LTCH Assessment Submission Process** – Recorded WebEx to be posted week of 8/27/12
     3. **LTCH Assessment and Validation Reports** – Recorded WebEx to be posted week of 8/27/12
  2. The LASER trainings are as follows, and will also be available on QTSO.com:
     1. LASER Login Process – Recorded WebEx posted by the week of 8/20/12
     2. LASER Patient and Assessment Entry – Recorded WebEx posted by the week of 8/20/12
     3. LASER Import and Export Process – Recorded WebEx posted by the week of 8/20/12
     4. LASER Reports – Recorded WebEx posted by the week of 8/20/12
     5. LASER Demonstration Version of the tool posted by the week of 8/20/12

**Federal Register Notices**:

* **September 2, 2011**  
  The LTCH CARE Data Set related to the data collection for the quality measure: Pressure Ulcers that are New or Have Worsened is discussed in a Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Notice which appeared in the Federal Register on September 2, 2011 (Volume 76, Issue 171). The file number for the LTCH PRA package in CMS-10409. Please see Link provided below.
* **August 18, 2011**  
  In the Section titled “C. Quality Reporting Program for LTCHs” which is contained in pages 51743 through 51756 the of the (CMS-1518-F) Fiscal Year 2012, Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long Term Care Hospitals Prospective Payment System and FY 2012 Rate; Hospitals FTE Resident Caps for Graduate Medical Education Payment, Rule, Federal Register/Vol. 76, No. 160, August 18, 2011, we describe the LTCH quality reporting program.

**LTCH CARE Data Set**:  
  
The LTCH CARE Data Set related to the data collection for the quality measure: Pressure Ulcers that are New or Have Worsened is discussed in a Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Notice which appeared in the Federal Register on September 2, 2011 (Volume 76, Issue 171). The file number for the LTCH PRA package is CMS-10409. Please see Link provided below.

Comments and Questions:  
Please submit comments and questions related to **technical** issues to: **LTCHTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov**.

Please submit feedback, comments and questions related to the LTCH Quality Reporting Program to: **LTCHQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov**.

**Technical Support Office**:

**NHSN**:  
  
Information related to the procedures using the NHSN for data submission for CLABSI and CAUTI events can be found at [**http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn**.](http://http:/www.cdc.gov/nhsn)