



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

June 27, 2005

AFL 05-15

**TO: SKILLED NURSING HOMES  
HOME HEALTH AGENCIES**

**SUBJECT: NURSING HOMES AND HOME HEALTH AGENCIES – UPDATED  
FACILITY COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS**

On March 10, 2005, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released Survey and Certification (S&C) Memorandum 05-22, “Nursing Homes and Home Health Agencies – Updated Facility Computer Specifications”. The S&C identifies the need for Nursing Homes (NHs) and Home Health Agencies (HHAs) to upgrade their Personal Computers (PCs).

The purpose of this All Facility Letter is to inform NHs and HHAs that CMS’ mandated 3-tiered architecture structure and the use of new Quality Net (QNet) approved reporting software calls for new minimum system requirements (outlined in **Chart 1** below) for users to access the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES). The S&C Memorandum is enclosed for reference.

**CHART 1 – End User Minimum PC system Requirements:**

CPU:	Pentium 3,500 MHz
Memory:	256 Mb
Operating System:	Windows 2000 or XP
Hard Drive:	500 Mb free space
Browser:	Internet Explorer v5.5 SP2

As most of you know, CMS conducted a survey and queried nearly 15,000 NHs about their computer configuration. The findings revealed that 1/3 of the NH computers are too old to support the new versions of reporting software. Although HHAs were not surveyed, the new reporting software will also affect them.

AFL 05-15  
Page 2  
June 27, 2005

CMS is scheduled to transition to this new reporting software in January 2006. In addition, much of the software that supports the submission of patient assessments and facility reporting – for example, the NH quality indicator (QI) and HHA outcome (OBQI) reports, and the submission and error reports – will be upgraded to the new software versions.

NHs and HHAs should meet the new minimum requirements by December 31, 2005. Otherwise, they will not be able to access the upgraded QI/OBQI and the error and submission reports.

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHS Licensing and Certification District Office, or contact Juana Escutia, Health Facilities Evaluator II, Policy Unit, at (916) 552-8726, or by email at [jescutia@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:jescutia@dhs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Jean Johnson**

Jean Johnson, Chief  
Policy and Administration Branch

Attachment