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INTRODUCING THE OASIS SYSTEM

The OASIS System is one part of the overall OASIS National Automation Project. The purpose of this project is to provide computerized storage, access, and analysis of the OASIS data on patients in Home Health Agencies across the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam. The OASIS System is intended to create a standard nationwide system for connecting Home Health Agencies to their respective State Agencies for the purpose of electronic interchange of data, reports, and other information. The OASIS System provides the following functions:

- Receipt of OASIS records from Home Health Agencies by State Agencies
- Authentication and validation of OASIS records received from Home Health Agencies
- Feedback to Home Health Agencies indicating acknowledgment of the transmission of the data and specifying the status of record validation
- Storage of OASIS records in the database repository within the State Agency

The system was designed to also serve as a means of communicating information (e.g., reports, documents, and bulletins) between the State Agencies and Home Health Agencies without requiring additional hardware or software. Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the OASIS System architecture and illustrates the communication components and database repository.

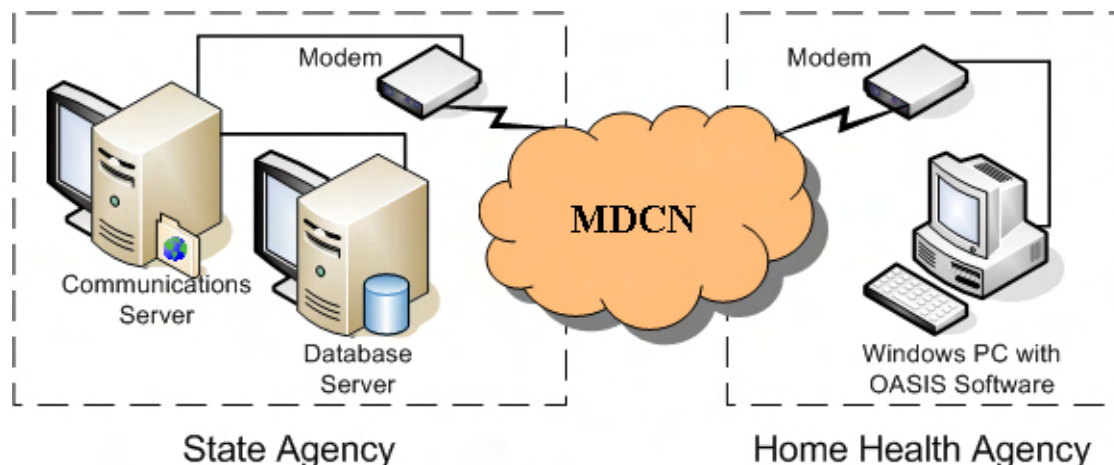


Figure 2-1. Overview of the OASIS System Architecture

Figure 2-1 also serves to illustrate the flow of OASIS data submissions. At each Home Health Agency, the OASIS System is utilized to electronically send OASIS data records to the State Agency. The information is transmitted via a modem and received at the State's Communications Server where the file is validated to ensure some basic elements conform to the requirements (such as proper format and Home Health Agency information) while the Home Health Agency remains online.

Once these minimal checks of the file are completed, a message is sent back to the Home Health Agency and appears onscreen indicating whether the file (referred to as a batch submission) was received successfully or rejected. The user remains online to ensure the submission was accepted.

If the submission passes the initial validation check, each record is then checked for errors or exceptions to the data specifications and an OASIS Final Validation Report is generated. Section 3 of this User's Guide describes both the OASIS Initial Feedback and OASIS Final Validation Reports and how to interpret the various fields for both reports.

The required software and hardware and recommendations for software training that you, the user, should obtain prior to using the OASIS System are listed below.

REQUIRED HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

Figure 2-2 below provides a checklist of the minimum hardware and software configurations required to transmit OASIS records to the State Agency using the OASIS system. Each list also includes the requisite communication software, which is necessary regardless of whether you have the minimum or optimum configuration.

NOTE: Your Home Health Agency must use software capable of encoding OASIS records and exporting data files in accordance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) standard record layout specifications (version 1.60) for the OASIS-B1. You may use the HAVEN software available from CMS or purchase software from a vendor. If you have any questions, contact your OASIS encoding software vendor.

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

Figure 2-2. Hardware/Software Requirements

NOTE: At Home Health Agencies where a computer network exists and/or Netscape is currently used, the installation and setup of the OASIS System and communication equipment should be coordinated with the assistance of a network administrator and appropriate vendors, as needed.

Should you have difficulty in verifying your existing system hardware and software configuration, contact your computer support personnel, the specific hardware and software vendors, or the vendor who has provided you with OASIS data encoding software, as appropriate.

RECOMMENDED TRAINING

Whether formal or informal, training in the software applications associated with the OASIS System would be helpful. It is recommended that you obtain training in Windows 2000 or Windows XP and Internet Explorer. Training in these applications can usually be obtained from the software vendor, a local computer store, college or university, or from your OASIS software vendor. A basic level of familiarity with these software applications, in addition to the operation of your PC and modem greatly facilitates the use of the OASIS System.

Note: You should receive training from your OASIS encoding software vendor(s) in performing data extracts and preparing files for submission prior to using the OASIS System. This helps to ensure that your submissions are in the correct format, contain the correct information, and are accepted into the system. If you are using HAVEN, a reference manual is available in your HAVEN download files.

In instances where software manuals or guides are not available, you may check with your local computer store for recommended reference guides. Both Windows and your Browser have online help available to assist you.