CMS

CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-04-07

DATE: **November 13, 2003**

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Finance, Systems & Budget Group

Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Minimum System Requirements

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Regional Offices and State Survey Agency personnel that the system requirements for State Survey Agency computers are being upgraded.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is revising the minimum standard requirements for the Windows Operating System to ensure compatibility with an upgrade to Quality Improvement & Evaluation System (QIES), Oracle software. Effective May 2004, all computers that will be directly connected to the QIES/ASPEN (Automated Survey Processing Environment) local area network may no longer use Windows 95. They must have a Windows 98, 2000, NT or XP operating system. Computers that are used remotely (e.g., for ASPEN Survey Explorer) and not connected to the network need not be upgraded.

This memorandum revises Page 16 of the FY 2004 State Survey and Certification Budget Call Program Requirements and Budget Guidelines (see new guidelines attached).

If there are any questions, please contact Pete Burdette at (410) 786-3490.

Effective: May 2004

Training: The information contained in this announcement should be shared with all state survey and certification staff.

/s/   /s/
Wayne Smith, Ph.D.   Thomas E. Hamilton

Attachment

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)

Minimum Standard System Client Requirement: Existing Equipment		
Component	**Desktop**	**Laptop**
Processor	Pentium Class (or equivalent) @ 266mHz	Pentium Class (or equivalent) @ 266mHz
Memory (RAM)	64 MB	64 MB
Disk Capacity (Free space)	200 MB	100 MB
Monitor	15" Color VGA	Monochrome/VGA
Operating System	Windows 98, 2000, NT, or XP Operating System	Windows 98, 2000, NT, or XP Operating System *
Floppy Disk Drive	3.5" HD	3.5" HD
Pointing Device	Mouse	Mouse or equivalent (e.g., trackball)
Network Interface Card	Yes	Required if no CD/ROM
Modem	Not Required	Recommended (56k)
CD/ROM	Recommended	Recommended
Minimum Client Requirement: New Purchases		
Component	**Desktop**	**Laptop**
Processor	Pentium Class (or equivalent) @ 1 GHz	Pentium Class (or equivalent) @ 1 GHz
Memory (RAM)	128 MB	128 MB
Disk Capacity Total/Free	1GB/200 MB	1 GB/100 MB
Monitor	15" Color VGA	Color VGA
Operating System	Windows 2000, NT, or XP Operating System	Windows 2000, NT, or XP Operating System
Floppy Disk Drive	3.5" HD	3.5" HD
Pointing Device	Mouse	Mouse or equivalent (e.g., trackball)
Network Interface Card	Yes	Recommended
CD-ROM	Yes	Yes
Modem	Not Required	Recommended (56 K)
Expected Cost	***<$1,000***	***$1,500***

* Windows 98, 2000, NT, or XP minimum only required for machines that directly access LAN-installed ASPEN or QIES Data Management System applications. Laptops that are never directly connected to the QIES/ASPEN LAN may use Windows 95.