



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

Circular Letter: DHCQ: 08-12-503

TO: Long-Term Care Facilities, Home Health Agencies

FROM: Paul Dreyer, Director

RE: Broadband Conversion for MDS/OASIS Submissions and CASPER Reporting Connectivity
FINAL DEADLINE

DATE: December 16, 2008

This letter is a follow-up to a previous circular letter 08-04-487 dated 04/29/08 concerning the coming broadband conversion for MDS/OASIS transmissions. In the past, facilities were allowed to connect to state servers when submitting MDS or OASIS assessments using a dial-up connection via phone lines. However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are now requiring all facilities to use their own private internet connection when submitting MDS or OASIS assessments. **CMS has announced the deadline date for conversion from dial-up connections to private broadband internet as February 1st, 2009.**

All submissions from this date forward will no longer work using previous dial-up connections. CMS has also made it clear that waivers will not be given out to facilities except in extreme situations where internet service is not available. If your facility has already made the conversion to broadband, please disregard this notice.

For further information regarding the broadband conversion, please refer to the previous circular letter 08-04-487 (available at www.mass.gov/dph/dhcq) concerning this issue or check the following website and click the link 'Broadband Preamble': <https://www.qtso.com/mdcn.html> (a hard-copy is also enclosed). The newest version of the ATT Global Network Client version 7.2.1 is also available for download. For questions regarding the ATT Global Network Client software, please call the MDCN help desk at 1-800-905-2069. For general questions, please call Andrew Sinatra at the state MDS/OASIS help desk at 617-753-8188.