

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

January 2014

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

SPARCS Staff Update

We are pleased to announce that Scott Franko has joined the Bureau of Health Informatics as the new Director of SPARCS Operations. Scott has an MBA in Management Information Systems from Clarkson University and has been with the Department of Health since 1988 in a variety of research, statistical, and managerial positions.

SPARCS Present on Admission Reporting

The Present on Admission (POA) report is pending public release this month and will be available at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/data_distribution.htm

Facility Race and Ethnicity Concordance Reports

The reports are currently being finalized for release to facilities to assist them in making data improvements. The reports will be made available on the DOH public website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/data_distribution.htm

SPARCS Regulations Update

Proposed changes to the regulations were modified in response to public comment. A new proposal could be submitted for public comment as early as April 2014.

SPARCS 101 Statewide Online Training through WebEx

SPARCS 101 training sessions are currently in the process of being redesigned. The new sessions will be made available through a series of online webinars on WebEx, with links on the SPARCS website. Each session will be topic-based. In addition, the training is being supplemented with an updated and comprehensive SPARCS Operations Guide. Future SPARCS Updates will provide information on the times and availability of the sessions and where to obtain copies of the SPARCS Operations Guide.

In this Issue



SPARCS Staff Update

SPARCS Present on Admission Reporting

Facility Race and Ethnicity Concordance Reports

SPARCS Regulations Update

SPARCS 101 Statewide Online Training through WebEx

ICD-10 Reporting Update

Verification of Contact Information

SPARCS Compliance

SPARCS-837 PC Application

New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon

SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

Data User Notes

ICD-10 Reporting Update

The Department has been working on the development of a reference file to be used to flag ICD-10 indicators, such as sex, age, HIV/AIDS, abortion, and others. This file has been completed and will be reviewed by external partners during the month of January.

Verification of Contact Information

SPARCS staff continually updates facility information. Should your facility experience any changes to contact or vendor information, please notify us at sparcs@health.state.ny.us.

SPARCS Compliance

SPARCS data is used for multiple purposes: research, market analysis and planning, policy, etc. As such, the quality and timeliness in reporting SPARCS data is of great importance. SPARCS regulations require that healthcare facilities submit 95 percent of a visit/discharge month's data within 60 days from the end of that visit/discharge's month; i.e., 95 percent of visits/discharges ending in October 2013 are to be submitted by December 31, 2013.

Starting in January 2014, those facilities that have low submissions for a particular month, based on the monthly update at the beginning of the month, will have e-mails sent to their SPARCS coordinators and backup coordinators notifying them of this fact. For January 2014, this will be for SPARCS data with visits/discharges in October 2013. Further, this applies to all SPARCS data: inpatient, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, and outpatient services.

To assist SPARCS coordinators and their backup coordinators in this endeavor, monthly compliance reports are posted on the public website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/reports/compliance/pfi_facilities.htm

Submission audit reports are also posted online:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/reports/audit.htm>

SPARCS-837 PC Application

The SPARCS-837 PC application has been updated to version 2.2.2. Modifications include:

- Added the ability to maintain up to 10 Race/Ethnicity Codes (Add, Update, Import, Export, and Edit)
- Modified Race/Ethnicity edits for the new SPARCS Race/Ethnicity requirements
- Modified edits to allow long length-of-stay for Medicare Outpatient cases with ED Revenue Codes
- Allow Accident Hour ("45") and Unknown ("99") Value Codes
- Allow Medicaid Rate Codes with embedded decimal points
- Modified acceptable range edits for Physician License Numbers
- Added new Patient Discharge Disposition codes for Planned Readmissions

SPARCS-837 can be downloaded from the Health Commerce System:

<https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/ctrldocs/subsparc/request837.html>

New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon

The New York State Health Data Code-a-Thon took place on December 19 and 20 at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute EMPAC Center. The theme of the code-a-thon was “Healthy Connections = Healthy Communities.” In addition to two days of “data coding” that resulted in the development of several apps to assist users with making healthy choices regarding diabetes and obesity management, the event featured concurrent public health “luminary talks” by several distinguished speakers that focused on topics such as: the importance of open data for the health community; critical and on-going work by public health professionals within New York State’s communities; and the roles of health plans, healthcare providers, and local businesses in encouraging healthy behaviors. SPARCS was represented by Mary Beth Conroy, Director of the Bureau of Health Informatics. Team “Vera” created the winning application and was awarded \$6,000. More information on the Code-a-Thon may be found on the DOH webpage at <https://sites.google.com/site/nyshealthcodo/>

SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

All requests for both limited and identifiable data can now be submitted to one location: dprb@health.state.ny.us. The following organizations received SPARCS data files in December 2013:

Organization	Data File Type	Years Received
Yale New Haven Health System Planning Office	Limited	2012
University of Chicago	Limited	2012
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	Limited	2007-2011
University of Pennsylvania	Limited	2012
Rice University	Limited	2007
Truven Health Analytics	Limited	2013
Maimonides Medical Center	Limited	2008-2012
Pennsylvania State University	Limited	2000-2011
NYS Organ Procurement Organization	Identifiable	2010-2013
Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency	Identifiable	2000-2012
Temple University Health System	Limited	2011-2013
Comparion Medical Analytics, Inc.	Limited	2012
Provider Consulting Solutions	Limited	2012
SG-2,LLC	Limited	2010-2013

A complete list of approved identifiable data requests is maintained on the DOH website: http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dprb/approved_data_req.htm

Data User Notes

Race and Ethnicity:

SPARCS data files currently released contain Rochester General and Newark Wayne with errors in race and ethnicity reporting for the last two months of 2011 and all of 2012. These facilities corrected the errors, which will be reflected in the January SPARCS data refresh.

Emergency Department Data:

With the start of Expanded Outpatient Data Collection (EODC) in 2011, there was a substantial increase in Emergency Department (ED) records reported by several facilities. Analysis of the data indicates that the increase is associated with mental health related visits, where an ED designation of a previous visit was continued incorrectly onto a patient's subsequent visits. These visits were, in fact, for outpatient mental health services. Corrections are being made by the facilities and should be completed in the next few months.

We welcome comments and feedback. Please contact us at:

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SPARCS Update newsletters are distributed electronically to individuals who have Health Commerce System (HCS) data upload access, subscribers to SPARCS-L, and other interested parties upon request. Updates are also available online at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/info.htm>