

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

May 2014

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

General Announcements

Health Innovation Challenge

The goal of the NYS Health Innovation Challenge is to create technology-driven solutions that enable consumers, employers, public health experts, communities, and purchasers to explore quality, charges, and costs data for medical procedures provided by NYS inpatient hospital facilities. The "Healthy Connections = Healthy Communities" solutions may be web, mobile, or desktop-based and built with information found at Health Data NY, OPEN NY and other open data sites (such as Health Data.gov, Data.Medicare.gov, NYC OpenData and/or APIs (Application Programming Interfaces). The solutions must present the quality, cost, and efficiency data in a format that is easy to interpret. The data and information presented in the solutions must include helpful guidance that consumers can easily understand with examples.

An independent panel of esteemed judges from such sectors as health care, information technology, academia, venture capital and others will use a rigorous set of criteria to select the winning technologies. Prizes totaling \$43,000 will be awarded as follows: First Place - \$30,000, Second Place - \$10,000, and Third Place - \$3,000.

A Health Innovation Challenge informational webinar was presented on April 24, 2014. Content experts from the Department of Health provided an overview of the challenge, the data sets (SPARCS, Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs), Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR), Cardiac Reporting System and the Prevention Agenda 2013-2017 Tracking Indicators), the use of APIs with Health Data NY, the evaluation criteria, and the timeline.

Table of Contents

General Announcements

- Health Innovation Challenge

Compliance and Quality Improvement

- SPARCS Compliance

Data Collection, Storage, and Release

- SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

Submitter Notes

- Transitional Care Units (TCUs)
- Tip for SPARCS Submitters

The slides and recording of the webinar are available at: <http://www.health2con.com/devchallenge/nys-health-innovation-challenge/>. The submission deadline is July 24, 2014.

Compliance and Quality Improvement

SPARCS Compliance

2013 Annual Reconciliation: On May 21, 2014 those facilities that continue to have deficiencies with their submissions and have not filed an extension will receive a second warning letter. This letter will be sent to the healthcare facility’s C.E.O. or administrator, with copies to the SPARCS coordinators. The warning letter states that all SPARCS data has not been submitted for their facility and all data is due by June 30, 2014. Extensions may be requested through May 20, 2014 via the SPARCS Bureau Mail Log, sparcs@health.state.ny.us.

Data Collection, Storage, and Release

SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

All applications to obtain limited or identifiable SPARCS data should be submitted to dprb@health.state.ny.us. All requests for SPARCS data (approved application required) should be submitted to sparcs@health.state.ny.us.

The following organizations received SPARCS data files in April 2014.

Organization	Data File Type	Years
Bassett Healthcare	Identifiable	2007-2011
Columbia University	Identifiable	2005-2009
	Limited	1990-2012
Cortland Regional Medical Center	Limited	2010-2012
CUNY Queens College	Identifiable	2012
Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency	Identifiable	2008-2012
Gold Health Strategies	Identifiable	2012
Greater New York Hospital Association	Identifiable	2012
HANYS	Identifiable	2012-2013
IPRO	Identifiable	2012
Lutheran Medical Center	Limited	2011-2013
North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System	Identifiable	2012-2014
NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene	Identifiable	2011-2013
NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation	Limited	2012
NYU Medical Center	Limited	2006-2013
OptumInsight	Limited	2012
Sachs Policy Group	Limited	2010-2012
SUNY Buffalo	Identifiable	2012
SUNY Downstate Medical Center	Limited	2000-2003

Treo Solutions	Identifiable	2012-2013
Truven Health Analytics	Identifiable	2013
Weil Medical College of Cornell University	Limited	2000-2013

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

Submitter Notes

Transitional Care Units (TCUs)

We are aware that some facilities have Transitional Care Units (TCUs) and are inquiring whether or not they should submit this data to SPARCS. This matter is currently under review and facilities will be notified once a decision has been reached.

Tip for SPARCS Submitters

New SPARCS coordinators submitting SPARCS data should be aware that the following information for each data submission should be saved:

- PDF copy of the confirmation page produced when the SPARCS file is submitted to the Health Commerce System.
- Digital copy of the edit file.
- Health facility’s upload file.

Information contained in these files is necessary when calling SPARCS Operations staff for assistance.

We welcome comments and feedback.

SPARCS Operations

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