

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

November/December
2015

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

General Announcements



Happy Holidays!

The Office of Quality and Patient Safety, Division of Information and Statistics, Bureau of Health Informatics, and SPARCS Operations wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

HCS Access

Microsoft stopped supporting Windows XP last year and is dropping support of Internet Explorer 8 and 9 in January 2016. To reduce potential security vulnerabilities the Department will discontinue access to HCS applications for users using Windows XP and Internet Explorer version 9 and older in February 2016. Please upgrade your browser and/or your operating system if you are still using the outdated platforms. Otherwise, if there are issues submitting SPARCS data we will be unable to address them. Extensions will not be granted if submission errors were received using unsupported systems.

Data Quality

SPARCS is developing a series of data quality reports that will be available to healthcare facilities. Facilities will be able to access these reports from the Health Commerce System (HCS). The reports, which are by facility, will highlight any inadequacies or inconsistencies in the data submitted by facilities. For cases indicating inadequacies or inconsistencies, facilities will be required to investigate and report as to the cause, and to correct and resubmit the data in question.

Table of Contents

General Announcements

- Happy Holidays
- HCS Access
- Data Quality
- Statistical Briefs
- Annual Vendor Renewal

Compliance

- Quarterly Reconciliation
- Monthly Compliance

Data Release

- Data Governance Committee
- Limited and Identifiable

Submitter Notes

- ICD-10 Qualifiers

The release of the data quality reports will be announced in future SPARCS Updates, so that facilities are aware of when to check the HCS.

Annual Vendor Renewals

SPARCS requires annual confirmation of the data agreement between the healthcare facility and the vendor that submits SPARCS data on their behalf. Previously SPARCS had required a new vendor renewal form, DOH-4388, each year, due one year from the date of the execution of the previous one. This year SPARCS streamlined the renewal process and accepted a confirmation email from the healthcare facility if there was no change to the information presented on last year's DOH-4388. In 2016 instead of rolling monthly renewals all vendor renewals will be due in the months of July and August. If there is a change to the data agreement information, a new DOH-4388 will be required.

Statistical Briefs

Statistical Brief #12 *New York State All Payer Inpatient Hospital Discharges and Emergency Room Visits for Children Under 18 Years, 2013* was released in December 2015. This Brief provides a snapshot of the inpatient hospital discharges and emergency room "treat and release" visits (visits not resulting in an inpatient admission) for children at New York State hospitals during 2013.

Compliance

Quarterly Reconciliation

The second quarter 2015 SPARCS reconciliation period ends December 31, 2015. The compliance reports will be generated based upon the SPARCS data uploaded to the Master file on January 6, 2016. All data must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the previous day to make this upload.

On December 8, 2015 warning emails were sent to SPARCS coordinators and administrators of healthcare facilities who still had outstanding compliance issues for the second quarter 2015 SPARCS reconciliation period after the December 2, 2015 upload.

Monthly Compliance

Monthly warning notices were sent to SPARCS coordinators for facilities that submitted no SPARCS inpatient and/or no outpatient data for the month of September 2015. SPARCS expects at least 95% a healthcare facility's SPARCS data to be submitted within 60 days of the end of the month of the discharge or visit. This is the third warning letter in a series of three letters. If the issue is not resolved by the January 5th upload, an SOD (statement of deficiency) will be issued.

Discharge/Visit month	Monthly Submission 95% due by the end of month	Reconciliation Activities
July 2015	September 2015	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u>
August 2015	October 2015	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u>
September 2015	November 2015	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u>
October 2015	December 2015	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u> 1st Warning Email Week of October 13, 2015
November 2015er	January 2016	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u> 2nd Warning Email Week of November 9, 2015
December 2015	February 2016	<u>2nd Quarter Reconciliation period</u> 3 rd Warning Email Week of December 7, 2015 Data Due December 31, 2015
January 2016		Statement of Deficiency Issued

Data Release

Data Governance Committee

The SPARCS Data Governance Committee held a meeting on November 9, 2015. The following SPARCS identifiable data requests were presented to the Committee during this meeting:

Request #	Project Title	Organization Name
1409-01 (S)	Evaluation of Hospital Quality and Performance	New Jersey Health Care Quality Initiative
1211-03 (A3)	NYC Systems Analysis of Vulnerable Exiters: Outcomes of Youth Transitioning from Foster Care and Juvenile Justice (NYC S.A.V.E.) and Longitudinal Health Care and Services use of Homeless People	Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI) Office of the Mayor
1511-01	Health Information Technology in Heart Failure	NYU Langone Medical Center

The next meeting of the SPARCS Data Governance Committee will be held on February 8, 2016.

Limited and Identifiable

The following organizations received SPARCS data from October 8, 2015 through December 4, 2015.

Organization	Data Type	Years
Blythedale Children's Hospital	Identifiable	2010-2014
Albany College of Pharmacy	Limited	2011-2014
CDC and prevention	Identifiable	2013
Cornell University	Identifiable	1998-2014
Dutchess County Department of Health	Limited	2014-2015
Hackensack University Medical Center	Limited	2014
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	Limited	2012-2013
Health Quest	Limited	2014-2015
IMS Health	Limited	2014
Intellimed International Corporation	Limited	2012-2013
IPRO	Identifiable	2014-2015
Lexis Nexis	Limited	2014-2015
Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases	Limited	2014
SUNY Albany School of Public Health	Identifiable	2001-2014
SUNY Buffalo	Identifiable	2013-2014
SUNY Downstate Medical Center	Identifiable	2014
SUNY Stony Brook University Hospital	Identifiable	1997-2014
Truven Health Analytics	Limited	2013
University of Minnesota	Limited	2011-2013
Welsh Analytics LLC	Limited	2014
Western CT Health Network	Limited	2014-2015
Yale New Haven Health System Planning Office	Limited	2014

The complete list of approved identifiable data requests dating back to 2009 is on the public webpage at the following address: http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/appr_data_req.htm.

Submitter Notes

ICD-10 Qualifiers

On 10/1/2015 SPARCS transitioned to the ICD-10 coding system for collecting inpatient and outpatient diagnosis and procedure code data in the X12-837 5010 format. The ICD-10 code qualifiers are listed in the SPARCS X12-837 Input Data Specifications manual. The manual is available on the department's public website at the following URL: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/sysdoc/input5010.pdf>.

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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/newsletters/>*