

# SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

September 2014

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

## General Announcements

### *E-mail Address Updates*

SPARCS e-mail addresses have changed as a result of migration to a new system:

#### **Previous**

dprb@health.state.ny.us  
sparcs@health.state.ny.us

#### **New**

sparcs.requests@health.ny.gov  
sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov

During this transition period, e-mail sent to the previous address will be automatically forwarded. Please make sure to update your contact lists with the new addresses.

### *Statistical Briefs*

Statistical Brief #1, "New York State All Payer Hospital Inpatient Potentially Preventable Complication (PPC) Rates: 2009-2012," is available for download from the public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/sb/>.

### *Data Governance Committee*

In accordance with the adopted amendment to NYCRR Title 10 Section 400.18, a SPARCS Data Governance Committee has been formed to review identifiable data requests. The SPARCS Data Governance Committee supersedes the SPARCS Data Protection Review Board (DPRB). Identifiable data requests will be granted only upon approval by a majority of the members of the committee, but the Commissioner or his designee has the final authority over the approval or disapproval of all requests. More information on the committee, including a list of the members, can be found at the following direct link:  
<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/>.

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Additional detailed information is presented in the **SPARCS Data Governance Policy and Procedure Manual** that has been prepared and can be downloaded at the following page:  
<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/>.

The Data Governance Committee will meet every six weeks. If you are interested in using identifiable SPARCS data, please note the application due dates in the table below. SPARCS Operations asks that applications be submitted at least three weeks prior to the meeting date to allow time for preliminary review. Identifiable applications and affidavits can be found in the data access section on the public webpage (<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/access/>).

Application Due Date	Committee Meeting Date
--	09/29/2014
10/08/2014	10/29/2014
11/19/2014	12/10/2014
12/31/2014	01/21/2015
02/11/2015	03/04/2015
03/26/2015	04/16/2015
05/06/2015	05/27/2015
06/17/2015	07/08/2015

### *SPARCS Data Collection Advisory Group*

Last month, we issued an invitation to anyone interested, to join the Data Collection Advisory Group. The group will be forming soon, and the invitation is still open. If you are interested in collaborating on the data collection process or contributing to the improvement of SPARCS data, please let us know. You can email us at [sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov](mailto:sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov).

## **Compliance and Quality Improvement**

### *Compliance*

2013 SPARCS annual compliance ended on **August 31, 2014**. The twelve facilities that did not finish the compliance protocol will be receiving a Statement of Deficiency for failure to submit 100% of their 2013 SPARCS data.

This is the last time SPARCS will conduct the annual compliance protocol that required 100% of SPARCS data to be submitted in 180 days from the end of the calendar year (December 31). In 2014, SPARCS initiated the quarterly reconciliation compliance protocol that requires 100% of the SPARCS data to be submitted in 180 days from the end of the quarter. The first quarter SPARCS reconciliation compliance ends **September 30, 2014**. SPARCS expects all data from the discharges and visits that occurred in the months of January, February, and March 2014 to be submitted by the due date. SPARCS coordinators from the 96 facilities who had not finished the reconciliation process by September 2, 2014 received a warning e-mail during the week of September 8, 2014. A copy of this e-mail was sent to the healthcare facility C.E.O. or administrator. After October 7, 2014, healthcare facilities that did not submit 100% of their SPARCS data will be notified by e-mail of their failure to complete the reconciliation protocol by the deadline. To allow facilities to adjust to this new quarterly protocol, facilities not submitting 100% of their

first quarter SPARCS data will not be held accountable until the end of the second quarter SPARCS reconciliation compliance period, December 31, 2014.

Second quarter SPARCS reconciliation compliance begins in October 2014. This requires 100% of SPARCS data for the visits or discharges that occurred in the months of April, May, and June 2014 to be submitted by December 31, 2014. The warning notices will be e-mailed on the following schedule:

- **October 14, 2014—First Notice:** Reminder e-mail to all facilities with submitted visits or discharges less than their calculated target.
- **November 11, 2014—Second Notice:** Second reminder to all facilities with submitted visits or discharges less than the calculated target after the **December 31, 2014** upload.
- **December 9, 2014—Third Notice:** SPARCS data not received by **December 31, 2014**. Warning letter of impending failure to submit SPARCS data in a timely manner will be sent to the SPARCS coordinators and a copy of this letter will be mailed to the facility CEO.
- **January 13, 2015—Final Notice:** The C.E.O.'s or administrators of facilities that fail to submit 100% of either first or second quarter SPARCS data (January to June 2014) by **December 31, 2014** will receive a Statement of Deficiency.

## Training/Support

### *SPARCS Edit Reports and Error Correction Presentation*

A “SPARCS Edit Reports and Error Correction Presentation” has been prepared (along with audio) and is now available from the public website’s training/support section:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/training/>

Additional trainings for “SPARCS Data Users” and “SPARCS Data Submitters” are currently being finalized and will be available in this same section of the public website in the coming month. Please check back often. We welcome comments and feedback on the developed training material, please contact us at [sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov](mailto:sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov).

## Data Release

### *Limited and Identifiable*

Limited or identifiable SPARCS data request applications should be submitted to [sparcs.requests@health.ny.gov](mailto:sparcs.requests@health.ny.gov). The following organizations received limited or identifiable SPARCS data files in August 2014. For the list of all approved identifiable data request, visit the public website:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/>

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Data File Type</b>	<b>Years</b>
1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East	Limited	2013
Boston University	Identifiable	2003-2010
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Identifiable	2008-2012
Dartmouth, Hitchcock Medical Center	Limited	2009-2013
Gold Health Strategies, Inc.	Identifiable	2012
Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine	Limited	2005-2012
Navigant Consulting, Inc.	Limited	2011-2013
North Shore, Long Island Jewish Health System	Identifiable	2012-2014
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Identifiable	2008-2013
NYS Organ Procurement Organization	Identifiable	2010-2013
NYU Hospitals for Joint Diseases	Limited	2001-2012
Sg-2, LLC	Identifiable	2010-2012
	Limited	2013
Stony Brook University Medical Center	Limited	1985-2013
SUNY Downstate Medical Center	Identifiable	1995-2012
	Limited	2004-2011
University of California, Berkeley	Identifiable	2012
Westchester County Department of Health	Identifiable	2011

## Submitter Notes

### Observation Stays

The outpatient edit program has been modified to allow the reporting of observation stays of greater length than two days for ambulatory surgery and three days for emergency department records. The new edit allows any length of stay for either ambulatory surgery or emergency department records when either of the following codes is reported:

- Revenue code '0762'
- HCPCS code 'G0378'

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We always welcome questions, comments, and feedback. Please contact us at:

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ListServ: [sparcs-l@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sparcs-l@health.state.ny.us)

Website: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/>

Newsletters: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/newsletters/>

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