



**Department
of Health**

SPARCS Annual Assessment Fee

Utilizing Electronic Payments

Presented by:

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September 23, 2015

Housekeeping

- Please mute your telephone line
- Submit all questions to email address provided at end of presentation
- Presentation will be made available online and upon request

What is SPARCS?

- Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
 - Cooperation between the health care industry and government
- Been in existence over 35 years: established through statute in 1979
- Calendar Year Based Discharge/Visit Dataset
- All payer claim level detail on patient characteristics, diagnoses and treatments, services, and charges for hospital discharges, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, and hospital based outpatient service visits (or EODC) in New York State
- Public web link: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/>
 - SPARCS Operations Manual
 - Data Governance Policy and Procedures

Enabling Legislation and Regulations

- The enabling legislation and regulations for SPARCS are located under:
 - Section 2816 of the Public Health Law (PHL)
 - Section 400.18 of Title 10 (Health) of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR)
 - State Finance Law, Article 6, 97-x (hospital assessment fees)
- SPARCS regulations were most recently amended in September 2014

Who Submits to SPARCS?

- Facilities licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law
- Freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (D&TC's)

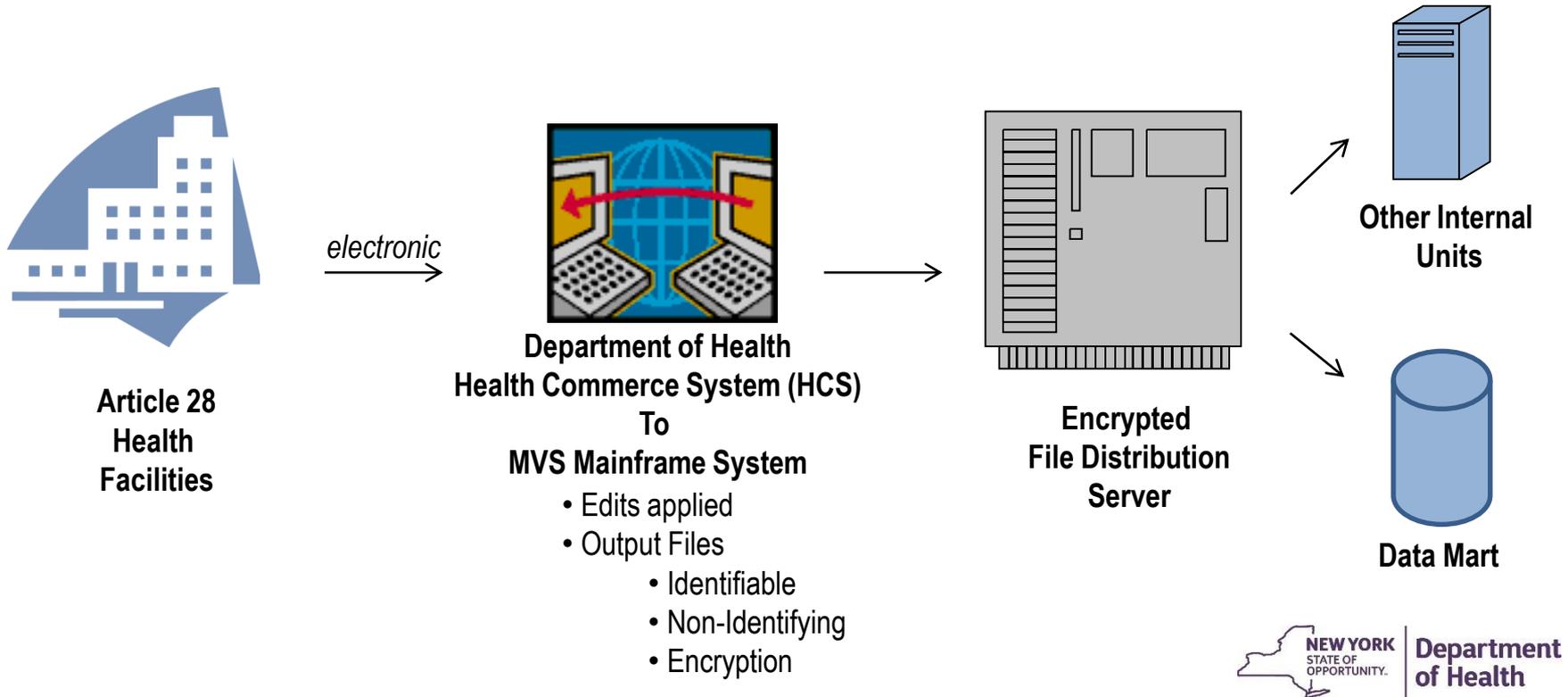
Inpatient

- Hospitals

Outpatient

- Emergency Departments
- Ambulatory Surgery Centers
 - Free-Standing Diagnostic & Treatment Center (D&TC)
 - Hospital Based
- Hospital Based Outpatient Services
 - EODC = Expanded Outpatient Data Collection

SPARCS Submission Process



Many Uses of SPARCS Data

- Financial, Rate Setting (e.g., APR-DRG SIWs)
- Developing and Evaluating Policy
- Epidemiology
- Health Planning/Resource Allocation
- Quality of Care Assessment
- Research
- Surveillance
- Utilization Review
- Geo-coding
- Linkages with other data sets, registries, etc. to enhance and/or validate data.
- AHRQ Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
- AHRQ Quality, Efficiency and Patient Safety Measures (i.e. IQI, PQI/PDIs, PSIs)
- 3M Efficiency Measures (i.e. PPVs, PPRs, PPCs)



Examples of SPARCS Data Requests

- A Retrospective Comparison of the Inpatient Mortality and 30-day Readmission Rates of Heart Failure Patients
- Alleviating overcrowding of patients in emergency rooms using optimal resources allocation policies derived from queuing theory and dynamic optimization methods
- An Analysis of NYS Hospital Utilization Rates for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Diagnoses by Community Socio-Economic Status and Access to Primary Care: Implications for Healthcare
- An Evaluation of the Impact of Restaurant Sanitary Grade Posting on Health Hazard Reduction in New York City

Future Plans for SPARCS

- Quality based compliance of the data
- Upgrades of SPARCS data systems
 - Data Submission Process
 - Delivery Methods of the Data
- Expand the types of data collected
 - Hospital Satellite Clinics
 - Free Standing Clinics

Where is SPARCS Located?

Bureau of Health Informatics

Address:

SPARCS Operations

Bureau of Health Informatics

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

NYS Department of Health

Corning Tower, Room 1970

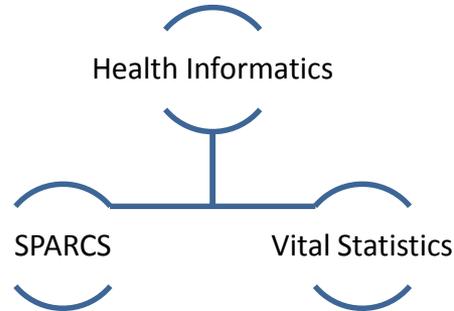
Albany, New York 12237

Phone: 518-474-3189

Fax: 518-486-3518

E-mail: SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov (General Inquiries)

SPARCS.requests@health.state.ny.gov (Data Access)



The Bureau of Health Informatics supports the Office of Quality and Patient Safety objectives of improving data timeliness, accuracy, integrity and accessibility, inclusive of both the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) and Vital Statistics (VS).

Making SPARCS Payments – New ACH Method

- **What is an ACH electronic payment?**
 - ACH = Automated Clearing House, established in 1974
 - Electronic network for financial transactions in the United States—processed \$38.7 trillion in over 22 billion transactions during 2013
 - Examples include direct deposit, payroll and vendor payments
 - credit card payments handled by separate networks
 - wire transfers are **not** ACH payments
- **DOH SPARCS ACH process: credit transactions initiated by payor – “push” transactions**
 - Payor uses DOH SPARCS bank account and routing information
 - DOH will not pull payments from a provider’s bank account
 - Payments usually settle in one to two business days once submitted by payor to bank
 - payor bank may have daily cutoff time for transaction submission
 - some variation in bank time to verify and process transactions

SPARCS Bank Account Details

NYS DOH SPARCS Assessment Revenue Account

Bank address: Key Bank, 4901 Tiedeman Road, Brooklyn, OH 44144

Routing number: 021052053

Account number: 73208817

Account type: Checking

- Routing and account numbers are Universal Payment Identification Codes (UPIC), not the actual bank account numbers
 - UPIC numbers mask confidential information, reducing fraud risk
 - Restricted to credit payments, preventing unauthorized debits
 - Same account number even if DOH were to switch banks in the future
- On ACH setup, may see the UPIC referenced, not Key Bank. Example: Joint UPIC Account, 115 Business Park Road, Winston-Salem, NC. This is ok as long as the routing number and account number are the values given above.
- UPICs only work for Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions--wire transfers cannot use UPICs. **DOH will not give out actual account details.**



SPARCS Bank Account Details

- Key Bank can accept PPD, CCD+ and CTX NACHA* formats
 - PPD+ and CCD+ includes one 80 character free form text addenda record per transaction.
 - CTX allows up to 9,999 addenda records—enables a single payment to cover multiple invoices
- SPARCS invoice number(s) must be included on each ACH payment
 - A payment can cover more than one invoice
 - Can list multiple invoice numbers on a single addenda record—CCD+ and PPD+ formats can work
 - Invoice detail is required to ensure that payments are posted timely and correctly
 - No other attachments are required
 - Email remittance to DOH at fees@health.ny.us if invoice information cannot be included on ACH record

*NACHA: National Automated Clearing House Association. PPD – Prearranged Payment and Deposit; CCD – Corporate Credit or Debit; CTX – Corporate Trade Exchange



**Department
of Health**

SPARCS Bank Account Details

Sample Advice Provided to DOH by Key Bank

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KEYBANK
EDI SERVICES
REMITTANCE/PAYMENT ADVICE

JULY 28, 2015

NYS DEPT OF CORR DIV OF IND
ATTN: LIZ FELLER
110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12236

=====
PAYMENT INFORMATION:

CREDIT:          $1,931.00
EFFECTIVE DATE:  07/28/2015
INPUT FORMAT:    ACHCCD

CREDIT PARTY          DEBIT PARTY
-----
ROUTING ID:          [REDACTED]
DEMAND ACCT:         [REDACTED]
ROUTING ID:          041001039
DEMAND ACCT:         [REDACTED]
COMPANY ID:          9291690002

TRACE NUMBER:        041001033309814
SYSTEM DATE:         07/29/2015  20:15:07
RECEIVER:            DOH SPARCS ASSESSMENT
ORIGINATOR:          CANTON POTSDAM H
PMT:                 4998 Q1 4/1/15-6/30/15

=====
REPORT TOTALS:

CREDITS: $1,931.00
  
```

ACH format

- CCD most common
- Some PPD

Addenda information

- Can list multiple invoice numbers
- Or send separate payments



SPARCS Bank Account Details

Special Instructions for State Entities—SUNY Hospitals, Helen Hayes

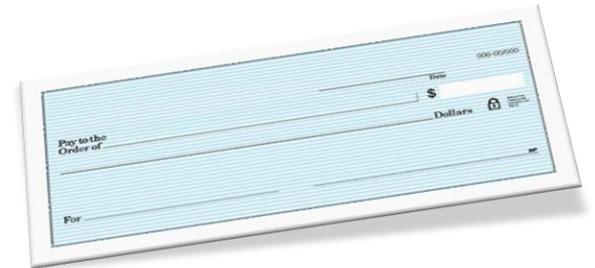
- Enter payment in SFS
 - Vendor ID = 0430000055
 - a “special use vendor ID” that enables interagency EFT and check payments
 - no interagency bills in SFS—state entities receive invoices directly from SPARCS
 - On SFS AP screen, will see the following address:

DOH Revenue Receiving Account
NYS Dept. of Health – SPARCS
ESP Corning Tower – Room 2863
Albany, NY 12237
 - Ensure that Location is “MAINEPAY” – this will route payment to the SPARCS bank account. MAINEPAY is the default if no value is provided (could be the case with bulkload vouchers)
- Use this vendor ID for SPARCS assessment fee payments only--other DOH programs have own payment requirements

Making SPARCS Payments

Checks

- **Background**
 - Original payment method accepted for SPARCS
 - Most providers currently reliant upon checks to pay annual assessment fees
- **Disadvantages**
 - Security
 - Increased likelihood of fraud
 - Easily intercepted or tampered with
 - Time
 - Possible mailing delays or lost in transit
 - DOH deposit times vary
- **Benefits**
 - Familiarity
 - Established systems, procedures



Making SPARCS Payments

Electronic

- Why use electronic payments?
 - Increased security
 - Transactions cannot be altered once transmitted
 - Identities of involved parties verified
 - Increased workflow and efficiency
 - Eliminates manual tasks associated with paper checks
 - No postal delays
 - Prompt reconciliation
 - Cost
 - Average price per transaction = \$.25 - \$.75
 - \$ savings compared to paper checks



Summary

- Compliance date is 9/30/15
- Quarterly invoices ending 9/30/15 to be paid via ACH
 - Expect to receive invoices in mid-October
 - Associated ACH payments due 30 days after invoice date (mid-November)
 - Send a test transaction and DOH will verify receipt
- Questions or concerns?
 - Email fees@health.ny.gov
 - SPARCS assessment fee contacts
 - Patricia Dillon – (518) 474-2031
 - Michael Roberts – (518) 473-8120
 - Marie Miller – (518) 474-6939
 - Presentation: health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/

