



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 8, 2016

Re: SPARCS Data Quality Initiative

Dear SPARCS Interested Party:

The SPARCS program will begin to enforce the quality of the SPARCS data submitted by your facility per the New York State Rules and Regulations §400.18, adopted in September 2014. Although the SPARCS system has edits that prevent the non-submission or the incorrect submission of specific data elements, facilities have great latitude in the content of those data elements. This initiative will generate reports that identify health care facilities submitting SPARCS data with potential inadequacies or inconsistencies in terms of data quality.

The following is the list of the quality reports. Details of these reports are found in the new *SPARCS Data Compliance Protocol: Quantity and Quality*, located on the SPARCS public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/training/>.

- Present on Admission
- SPARCS to Institutional Cost Report Comparison
- Claim Filing Indicator and Payment Typology
- Diagnosis and Procedures
- Discharge Hour
- Expanded Race and Ethnicity Reporting
- Patient County Correctly Reported/Homeless Indicator
- Patient Disposition
- Point of Origin
- Data Quality Audit Report

The quality initiative will begin by presenting the healthcare facilities with their quality reports with historical data for Calendar Years (CY) 2014 and 2015. This data will be posted on the Health Commerce System (HCS) under Reports, found on the SPARCS data submission page. These reports are being provided to facilities to assist in identifying areas of potential poor data quality. Facilities are encouraged to correct deficiencies in their CY2016 data. Facilities will be required to correct their inaccuracies starting with CY2017 SPARCS data.

Webex training sessions have been scheduled for December 7, 2016 9:30-11:30 AM and December 13, 2016 2:00-4:00 PM. Requests should contain your name, facility, email address, preferred session and sent by email to SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov. Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions, contact SPARCS Operations at telephone number 518-473-8144 or email SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov. SPARCS updates are published in our Newsletter located at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/newsletters/>.

Yours truly,

Scott Franko, Director

Bureau of Health Informatics