

**NEW YORK**  
*state department of*  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 14, 2012

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

In December, 2010 the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announced the Expanded Outpatient Data Collection (EODC) and its phased-in approach. This letter is to convey to you that Phase 2 and 3 of the EODC project are cancelled.

Although the EODC project was designed to collect data in three phases; the need to collect data from facilities has changed due to the direction of the New York State All Payer Database (APD). The SPARCS EODC project will be concluding with a successful implementation of collection from Phase 1 facilities. Thus, the phased collection is now as follows:

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Facility Description</b>	<b>Collection and Timeframe</b>
Phase 1	Hospital Outpatient Departments	Collection started Aug. 2011 Reporting for 2011 data and forward
Phase 2	Hospital extension clinics / diagnostic and treatment centers (D&TC) (approx. 1000 facilities)	NONE
Phase 3	Free-standing clinics/D&TC (approx. 1000 facilities)	NONE

In April, 2011 the NYSDOH was given authority to establish an APD as part of the state fiscal year (SFY) 2011-12 Budget. Specifically, the legislation amended the current law governing SPARCS (Public Health Law §2816), and gave the Department broad authority in establishing the APD.

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Due to the passage of the APD, which builds on the existing SPARCS law, and the development work surrounding the APD, the direction of data collection for outpatient services has shifted away from collecting data from over 2000 facility locations. The current SPARCS data collection of ambulatory surgery, hospital inpatient, emergency and outpatient services department data will become part of the APD.

New York joins fourteen other states<sup>i</sup> in the creation and development of an APD. The New York State APD will also initially serve as a repository for claims drawn from all major public and private payers and is envisioned to eventually become a repository for clinical data extracted from electronic health records. APDs will be used to examine the impact of reimbursement methodologies, public health interventions, and health care resources on utilization, quality, outcomes, and costs.

On behalf of the SPARCS Community, thank you for participating in EODC project. If you have any questions regarding cancellation of the EODC Phase 2 or Phase 3, please contact the SPARCS Administrative Unit at (800) 638-3808 or (518) 473-8144 or via email: [sparcs@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sparcs@health.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,



Laura K. Dellehunt, Director  
SPARCS Administrative Unit

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<sup>i</sup> The states that currently have an All Payer Database are: UT, KS, MN, TN, VT, NH, ME, MA, MD, WI, WA. States that are in implementation: RI, NY, OR.