

SPARCS Update

General Announcements

Health Facilities Own Data

SPARCS Operations is experiencing programming issues that are impacting various processes, including Health Facilities Own Data (HOD) in the X12-837 format. As a result, this product is not available at this time. As soon as this issue is addressed, a notification will be sent out.

For those facilities waiting for HOD in the X12-837 format to finish reporting their SPARCS data for first and second quarter 2014 SPARCS Reconciliation Compliance protocol, please notify SPARCS Operations at sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov. SPARCS Operations will notify you directly as soon as HOD is ready for use.

Statistical Briefs

Statistical Brief #5, "New York State All Payer Inpatient Admissions and Emergency Department Visits for Hypoglycemia, 2013," is now available for download from the public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/sb/>.

Compliance

Transition to Quarterly Reconciliation Compliance Protocol

SPARCS transitioned from annual reconciliation to the quarterly reconciliation compliance protocol starting January 2014. Previously, SPARCS' reconciliation period required 100% of SPARCS data be submitted 180 days from the end of the fiscal year. During the reconciliation period, SPARCS expects healthcare facilities to compare and rectify the number of patient records submitted to SPARCS with those in the healthcare facility's own records. With the passing of the new

Table of Contents

General Announcements

- Health Facilities Own Data
- Statistical Briefs

Compliance

- Transition to Quarterly Reconciliation Compliance Protocol

Data Release

- Data Governance Committee
- Limited and Identifiable

Submitter Notes

- Security Statement
- Claim Reporting

regulation, NYCRR 400.18, SPARCS changed the reconciliation period to 180 days from the end of the yearly quarter.

All SPARCS data for January, February, and March, 2014, the first quarter reconciliation compliance period, was due by September 30, 2014. As stated in previous communications, SPARCS would not hold facilities accountable until December 31, 2014, to allow the adjustment to the new quarterly reconciliation compliance period. All SPARCS data for visits and stays that occurred in April, May, and June, the second quarter, are due December 31, 2014.

The November 12 warning notice to the SPARCS coordinators has been delayed due to system issues. The October compliance reports have now been posted on the public website at http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/reports/compliance/alpha_facilities.htm. SPARCS coordinators for facilities that are not currently compliant for both first and second quarters will receive warning e-mail notices around November 24, 2014.

Those facilities not compliant after the December 3, 2014 upload will receive the final warning notice December 16, 2014. This notice will be sent to the SPARCS coordinators with copies to the administrator or C.E.O. Statement of Deficiencies will be issued for all facilities who continue to be out of compliance after the January 7, 2015 upload.

Data Release

Data Governance Committee

The SPARCS Data Governance Committee held a meeting on October 29, 2014. The Committee was established to review identifiable data requests. Three SPARCS data requests were presented at the meeting. The next meeting is December 10, 2014.

Limited and Identifiable

SPARCS data request applications should be submitted to sparcs.requests@health.ny.gov. For the list of all approved identifiable data requests, visit the public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/>.

The following organizations received limited or identifiable SPARCS data files in October 2014:

Organization	Data File Type	Years
Comparion Medical Analytics, Inc.	Limited	2013
Consumers Union	Limited	2012
CUNY Queens College	Identifiable	2013
Hackensack University Medical Ctr.	Limited	2013
HANYS Refresh	Identifiable	2013
HANYS Service, Inc.	Identifiable	2014
Health Quest	Limited	2013
Hunter College	Limited	2013
IMS Health	Limited	2013

Maimonides Medical Center	Limited	2013
Mount Sinai Medical Center	Limited	2013
Mount Sinai School of Medicine at Icahn	Limited	2013
New York State Organ Procurement	Identifiable	2013
Niagara Falls Memorial Center	Limited	2000-2013
North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System	Identifiable	2001-2010
NYS Office of Mental Health	Identifiable	2013
NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases	Limited	2013
NYU Lagone Medical Center	Identifiable	2010-2013
NYU School of Medicine	Identifiable	2013
Stony Brook University Hospital	Identifiable	2013
SUNY Buffalo	Limited	2000-2013
SUNY School of Public Health	Limited	1995-2013
University of Chicago Medicine	Limited	2002-2012
University of Rochester Medical Center	Identifiable	2013
Welsh Analytics LLC	Limited	2013
Westchester County DOH	Limited	2012, 2013

Submitter Notes

Security Statement

SPARCS coordinators and other healthcare facility representatives are being reminded that sending any patient identifiers by e-mail is a violation of HIPAA rules. SPARCS data files and SPARCS edit and error files contain patient identifiers (i.e. patient control and medical record numbers). These should only be sent by the Secure File Transfer application on the Health Commerce System (HCS). SPARCS staff have also begun to receive communications from healthcare facilities through online secure file transfer applications. The security of these applications is in question, and SPARCS staff will decline these transmissions.

Claim Reporting

Healthcare organizations with multiple hospitals are obligated to report the claim to SPARCS under the permanent facility identifier (PFI) where the service was rendered. For instance, if a patient receives emergency department services at different hospitals, the facility must report a SPARCS claim for each PFI where the service was provided, even though the facility only produces a single bill for the services.

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

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