Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)

Data Release Notes

The following is a list of currently resolved or currently known SPARCS data issues. The SPARCS program is working with its vendor Optum to correct these issues as quickly as possible and will keep users updated as changes occur. We welcome your feedback. If you believe other issues exist, please contact SPARCS at SPARCS.requests@health.ny.gov.

#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
1	Resolved	10/26/2018	FAC_ID FACILITY_NAME	Data element Facility ID (FAC_ID) may have multiple names (FACILITY_NAME) associated with it. One issue causing this is that some names will appear UPPER case and others mixed case. Another issue causing this is name changes by the facilities.	Facility ID (FAC_ID) should now only have one name (FACILITY_NAME) associated with it.
2	Resolved	03/08/2019	PAT_RACE_CD PAT_ETHNIC_CD	The data elements Race (PAT_RACE_CD) and Ethnicity (PAT_ETHNIC_CD) are blank for all records with a processed date (PROCESSED_DT) of March 26, 2018 or after. These are obsolete New York State specific data elements that will be retained for historical use. The data with a processed date of March 26, 2018 or after will use the CDC Race and Ethnicity codes found in RACE_ETHNIC_CD. These codes provide greater granularity of the data.	Data with a processed date of March 26, 2018 or after will use the CDC Race and Ethnicity codes found in RACE_ETHNIC_CD. These codes provide greater granularity of the data.
3	Resolved	03/08/2019	PAT_MRITL_STS	Marital Status (PAT_MRITL_STS) has incorrect blanks for those records with a processed date (PROCESSED_DT) on or after March 26, 2018.	Marital Status (PAT_MRITL_STS) is now populating correctly.
4	Resolved	12/31/2018	CCS classifications DX_GRP_CD PROC_GRP_CD	For the Diagnosis and Procedure tables, some CCS classification (DX_GRP_CD or PROC_GRP_CD) values are incorrect or missing.	CCS Classification (DX_GRP_CD is now populating correctly.
5	Resolved	10/26/2018	UNIQUE_PERSONAL_ID UPIDE	Data elements UPID (UNIQUE_PERSONAL_ID) and Enhanced UPID (UPIDE) may have invalid values; special characters, lower case, and/or blanks.	UPID (UNIQUE_PERSONAL_ID) and Enhanced UPID (UPIDE) are now populating correctly. We recommend linking to other tables using claim_trans_ID and suggest only to leverage UPIDE from sparcs_claim table for longitudinal analysis only.

#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
6	Known	This issue will be resolved in a future data release.	ST_LIC_NUMB PROV_NPI	State License Number not in use. A map for data submitted prior to March 26, 2018 is in development. State license number is no longer required for SPARCS submission. In the Provider table, data with a processed date (PROCESSED_DT) prior to March 26, 2018 will use the state license number (ST_LIC_NUMB). The data with a processed date of March 26, 2018 or after will use the National Provider ID (PROV_NPI).	
7	Resolved	11/24/2019	ACTV_FLAG LTST_FLAG	The SPARCS data tables are now produced from a transactional processing model, which means that records are adjusted and/or voided and then are stored for historical purposes (with a flag that indicates inactive). An error has been found in the adjustment and void process, which is adjusting multiple active transactions if the new adjustment transaction matches multiple active transactions. The process assigns the latest record's claim key to the new adjustment and sets both matching transactions to Active and the Latest flags to '0'. The impact is that distinct counts of discharges could be incorrect.	The Active and Latest flags are now setting appropriately. For external data request files, files are provided to you with only active records (ACTV_FLAG = "Y").
8	Resolved	11/24/2019	LOS	The Length of Stay (LOS) element is a calculated field after submission by the data warehouse. The LOS is calculated for inpatient claims. Currently each claim's LOS is calculated based on the number of days between the statement thru date and statement from date (Discharge Date – Admission Date) less (the number of non-acute days which are represented as occurrence span code 74). The impact is that there is a limited number of records with a LOS below 1.	The LOS is now populating correctly and calculated as such LOS = 'DISCH_DT' minus 'ADMIT_DT; if 'DISCH_DT' = 'ADMIT_DT' then LOS = 1.

#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
9	Resolved	9/19/2019	PROC_DT	Procedure Date after Discharge Date Data Submission edit issue. For Inpatient records, the procedure date should not be after discharge date. During the data submission process, it was discovered that an inpatient ICD-10 procedure date (PROC_DT) was being allowed to be after the discharge date (DISCH_DT). The impact is on measures using calculations for number of days between procedures and the discharge or admission date (ADMIT_DT).	The data submission edit and prior data submitted has been corrected. There are no longer PROC_DT values after the DISCH_DT for Inpatient records.
10	Resolved	11/24/2019	REV_CD	Revenue Code Data Submission edit issue. There were records in the SPARCS system where revenue codes were shortened to 3 characters in length. Revenue codes should all be 4 characters in length. One workaround is to correct, is to simply left pad with a single zero '0'.	The data submission edit and prior data submitted have been corrected. Revenue codes should all be 4 characters in length (left padded with a single zero '0' when appropriate).
11	Known Re-opened (Issue #2)	11/24/2019	NEO_BIRTH_WT	Issue #2: The edit that was resolved on 9/9/2019 enforces that a nonzero whole number (in grams with no decimals) birthweight must be reported for records submitted for newborn patients with inpatient place of service. During SPARCS remediation, when data that was submitted prior to 9/9/2019 were reprocessed, records with nonzero (or with decimals were rejected). This impacted some facilities more than others. See Appendix A to these release notes for impact.	A plan for resubmission is being developed.
	Resolved (Issue #1)	9/9/2019	NEO_BIRTH_WT	Issue #1: Newborn Weight Data Submission edit issue. Inappropriate birth weights have been reported. For example, newborn birthweight cannot be more than 12000g (26.5 pounds). In addition, some facilities were submitting birth weights with decimals. This is the known maximum for birthweight. In addition, the calculation of DRGs and other statistics for newborns were then inaccurate.	Issue #1 Resolved 9/9/2019. The data submission edit and prior data submitted have been corrected. Any records containing invalid birthweight values were fixed and resubmitted. Birth weight related APR DRG calculations are no longer ungroupable.

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#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
12	Resolved	9/5/2019	AMI_BP_Systolic AMI_BP_Diastolic AMI_Heart_Rate	Blood Pressure and Heart Rate Data Submission Edits. If AMI_BP_Systolic, AMI_BP_Diastolic and/or AMI_Heart_Rate are listed on a claim, they can only be 3 digits. These fields are also required if an AMI dx is present.	The edit has been modified to accept only 3-digit numbers and to require DX_CD is an AMI.
13	Resolved	9/5/2019	CHRG_SVC_AMT CHRG_TOT_AMT	Negative line level charges (CHRG_SVC_AMT) were present in the data. These data elements cannot be negative as SPARCS only get the final charges. This causes the total charges (CHRG_TOT_AMT) to be under reported.	The edit has been corrected and the records were reprocessed. The edit will now reject records containing negative final charges and submitters must fix and resubmit.
14	Resolved	11/24/2019	CUR_APR_DRG_CD CUR_APR_MDC_CD CUR_APR_ROM_CD CUR_APR_SOI_CD PREV_APR_DRG_CD PREV_APR_MDC_CD PREV_APR_ROM_CD PREV_APR_SOI_CD NEXT_APR_DRG_CD NEXT_APR_MDC_CD NEXT_APR_ROM_CD NEXT_APR_SOI_CD	APR DRG Timeframe of Calculation. APR DRGs were calculated based on the fiscal year Oct-Sept, where they were historically calculated on the calendar year Jan-Dec. This resulted in a calendar year having the same version for 3 quarters and a different version for the last quarter.	APR DRGs are now calculated based on a calendar year.
15	Resolved	11/24/2019	Enhanced UPID (UPIDE)	An issue existed on UPIDE values (UPIDE) not matching between the SPARCS_CLAIM and child tables (the other 13 tables in SPARCS).	UPIDE values now match between SPARCS_CLAIM and child tables. We recommend linking to other tables using claim_trans_ID and suggest only to leverage UPIDE from sparcs_claim table for longitudinal analysis only.
16	Resolved	11/24/2019	DX_GRP_CD PROC_GRP_CD	CCS classifications. CCS codes were missing.	For the Diagnosis and Procedure tables, CCS classification values (SPARCS_DIAG.DX_GRP_CD or SPARCS_PROC.PROC_GRP_CD) have been re-processed. Any missing values currently indicate that there is no valid grouping for the code.
17	Resolved	11/24/2019	ADMIT_HR	The Admit Hour data element (ADMIT_HR) was being incorrectly assigned, often with the value 20.	This has been corrected. The process for pulling the ADMIT_HR has been modified to accurately pull the data from the correct position.
18	Known	This issue remains under investigation	SVC_CATGY_CD	The SPARCS service categories (SPARCS_CLAIM.SVC_CATGY_CD) are incorrectly assigned. This field should not be used.	

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#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
19	Resolved	3/21/2020	EMERG_IND EMERG_ADMIT_IND	The logic for both indicators is not working properly. For example, we found 750,000 inpatient records with an emergency room revenue code being incorrectly assigned a "No" for EMERG_IND. In another scenario, we found 88,000 emergency department records for 2019 with an EMERG_ADMIT_IND ='Y.' However, EMERG_ADMIT_IND is only applicable to inpatient records.	The logic for assigning both indicators has been corrected for new submissions. The historical data has been updated to reflect the correct values.
20	Known	This issue remains under investigation	Reference tables	There are missing and non-aligning reference tables. A complete list will be provided for understanding of the issue shortly.	
21	Resolved	11/24/2019	Old ICD_TYPE_CD PROC_TYPE_CD New DX_VERS_TYPE_CD PROC_VERS_TYPE_CD	Database Column Name Changes	The following columns were renamed during the SPARCS reload and user queries will need to be updated with the new column names.
23	Resolved	11/24/2019	Added Database Columns: NEXT_APR_DRG_POA NEXT_APR_MDC_POA NEXT_APR_ROM_POA NEXT_APR_SOI_POA PREV_APR_DRG_POA PREV_APR_MDC_POA PREV_APR_ROM_POA PREV_APR_SOI_POA	Columns did not exist	The following columns were added during the SPARCS reload. These data elements are not available on the SPARCS extracts for external users.

Issue 21 resolution table:

Table Name	Column Name Before Remediation	Column Name After Remediation
SPARCS_DIAG	ICD_TYPE_CD	DX_VERS_TYPE_CD
SPARCS_PROC	PROC_TYPE_CD	PROC_VERS_TYPE_CD

Issue 23 resolution table:

Table Name	New Column Added
SPARCS_DRG	NEXT_APR_DRG_POA
SPARCS_DRG	NEXT_APR_MDC_POA
SPARCS_DRG	NEXT_APR_ROM_POA
SPARCS_DRG	NEXT_APR_SOI_POA
SPARCS_DRG	PREV_APR_DRG_POA
SPARCS_DRG	PREV_APR_MDC_POA
SPARCS_DRG	PREV_APR_ROM_POA
SPARCS_DRG	PREV_APR_SOI_POA

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#	Status	Date Resolved	Data Elements Affected	Brief Description of Known Issue	Resolution/Correct Behavior
24	Resolved	4/19/2020	PAYR_TYPOLOGY_CD with SEQ_ID = "2" or SEQ_ID = "3"	Payer typology codes for secondary and tertiary payers are NULL/missing for records with PROCESSED_DT on or after March 26, 2018. This includes discharge years (DISCH_YR) 2009 through 2019.	Payer typology codes for secondary and tertiary payers are now populated. The ETL process has been corrected so that secondary and tertiary payers will be populated for all submitted records going forward.

Version History:

Date	Author	Change Reference
December 10, 2018	DOH SPARCS APD	Initial publication
December 11, 2018	DOH SPARCS APD	Minor text edits to introduction
September 6, 2019	DOH SPARCS APD	Issues added; Issues resolved; Major changes to the style of the release notes
September 11, 2019	DOH SPARCS APD	Issues resolved
November 24, 2019	DOH SPARCS APD	Issues resolved; please review all
January 9, 2020	DOH SPARCS APD	Issues added
February 5, 2020	DOH SPARCS APD	Clarification of Issue 19 (Emerg_IND)
March 30, 2020	DOH SPARCS APD	Issue 19 resolved
April 19, 2020	DOH SPARCS APD	Issue 24 resolved

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Appendix A
Issue # 11 - NEO_BIRTH_WT

As noted in the known issues list, there is a data validation edit in the SPARCS Submission system that was implemented on 9/9/2019 which enforces data be submitted with a nonzero whole number (in grams with no decimals). During SPARCS remediation, when data that was submitted prior to 9/9/2019 were reprocessed, records with nonzero or with decimals were rejected. This impacted some facilities more than others. Table 1 and Table 2 below show the impact of these records rejections and provide context for SPARCS Inpatient data completeness. Please note, not all PFIs were affected and some were affected more than others.

Table 1. Count of Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT by Discharge Year

Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
2019	40167
2018	92862
2017	26491
2016	2766
2015	694
2013	2
2010	1

Table 2. Count of Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT by Discharge Year by Facility (PFI)

Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
000001	2018	51
000001	2019	9
000001	2017	5
000005	2018	2850
000005	2019	1511
000005	2017	735
000043	2016	2468
000043	2017	986
000043	2018	706
000043	2015	689
000043	2019	467
000058	2018	4
000058	2019	2
000066	2017	1
000085	2018	490
000085	2019	183
000085	2017	101
000098	2018	1

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
000103	2018	684
000103	2019	346
000103	2017	164
000103	2015	1
000116	2018	1356
000116	2017	1090
000135	2018	8
000135	2019	6
000135	2017	1
000158	2018	357
000158	2019	150
000158	2017	86
000165	2017	1
000181	2018	2343
000181	2019	1428
000181	2017	538
000192	2018	795
000192	2019	461
000192	2017	13
000213	2018	1946
000213	2019	1044
000213	2017	520
000218	2018	2899
000218	2019	1615
000218	2017	808
000245	2018	4191
000245	2019	1913
000245	2017	718
000324	2018	166
000324	2019	92
000324	2017	29
000339	2018	557
000339	2019	253
000339	2017	153
000367	2018	1339
000367	2019	713
000367	2017	386
000367	2010	1
000379	2018	267
000379	2019	175
000379	2017	65

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
000393	2018	345
000393	2019	165
000393	2017	86
000397	2018	356
000397	2019	243
000397	2017	126
000397	2016	3
000411	2018	1546
000411	2019	914
000411	2017	550
000413	2017	1105
000413	2018	519
000413	2016	9
000471	2018	1303
000471	2019	824
000471	2017	297
000511	2018	31
000511	2017	5
000513	2018	916
000513	2017	226
000513	2019	199
000527	2018	3779
000527	2017	1393
000527	2019	1175
000527	2016	60
000541	2018	6734
000541	2019	3245
000541	2017	1652
000574	2018	410
000574	2019	200
000574	2017	119
000574	2013	2
000574	2016	1
000583	2018	325
000583	2019	177
000583	2017	95
000583	2016	2
000589	2018	369
000589	2019	247
000589	2017	141
000599	2018	1702
000599	2019	858
000599	2017	472

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
000628	2018	2080
000628	2017	731
000628	2019	504
000630	2018	2048
000630	2019	826
000630	2017	524
000635	2018	333
000635	2017	157
000635	2019	103
000678	2018	573
000678	2017	180
000678	2019	70
000694	2018	894
000694	2019	493
000694	2017	88
000704	2018	598
000704	2017	237
000704	2019	205
000708	2019	154
000727	2018	491
000727	2019	249
000727	2017	157
000746	2018	1106
000746	2017	660
000746	2019	551
000752	2018	401
000752	2019	191
000752	2017	37
000776	2018	1302
000776	2019	829
000776	2017	612
000776	2016	166
000776	2015	4
000779	2018	9759
000779	2017	2526
000779	2019	1793
000798	2018	111
000798	2017	26
000804	2017	45
000804	2016	1
000815	2018	512
000815	2019	281
000815	2017	117

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
000848	2017	2
000848	2019	1
000848	2018	1
000889	2018	667
000889	2019	314
000889	2017	166
000896	2018	1428
000896	2019	622
000896	2017	275
000913	2017	8
000924	2018	2413
000924	2019	1165
000924	2017	643
000925	2018	2715
000925	2019	1611
000925	2017	684
000938	2018	307
000938	2019	163
000938	2017	73
000943	2018	697
000943	2019	254
000943	2017	158
000977	2018	612
000977	2019	333
000977	2017	201
000977	2016	56
000990	2018	338
000990	2019	130
000990	2017	77
001005	2018	1189
001005	2019	616
001005	2017	303
001028	2018	589
001028	2019	358
001028	2017	165
001039	2018	638
001039	2019	346
001039	2017	189
001045	2019	352
001045	2018	1
001129	2018	4

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
001139	2018	1208
001139	2019	621
001139	2017	364
001153	2018	63
001153	2017	28
001165	2019	24
001165	2018	14
001172	2018	1809
001172	2019	863
001172	2017	499
001176	2018	695
001176	2019	376
001176	2017	217
001186	2018	11
001186	2019	10
001286	2018	789
001286	2019	307
001286	2017	272
001294	2018	713
001294	2019	97
001301	2018	1749
001301	2019	765
001301	2017	505
001438	2018	1471
001438	2019	438
001438	2017	386
001445	2018	812
001445	2017	222
001445	2019	192
001450	2018	3877
001450	2019	2022
001450	2017	1025
001453	2019	1
001454	2018	947
001454	2019	433
001454	2017	223
001626	2018	547
001626	2019	159
001633	2018	326
001633	2019	60
001633	2017	1

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Facility PFI	Discharge Year	Rejected Records based on NEO_BIRTH_WT
001638	2018	1970
001638	2019	1040
001638	2017	439
001692	2018	1523
001692	2017	345
001692	2019	191
001738	2018	3186
001738	2019	1439
001738	2017	257

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