



**Department  
of Health**

# **Redesign of the SPARCS Submission Process**

**Presented by:**

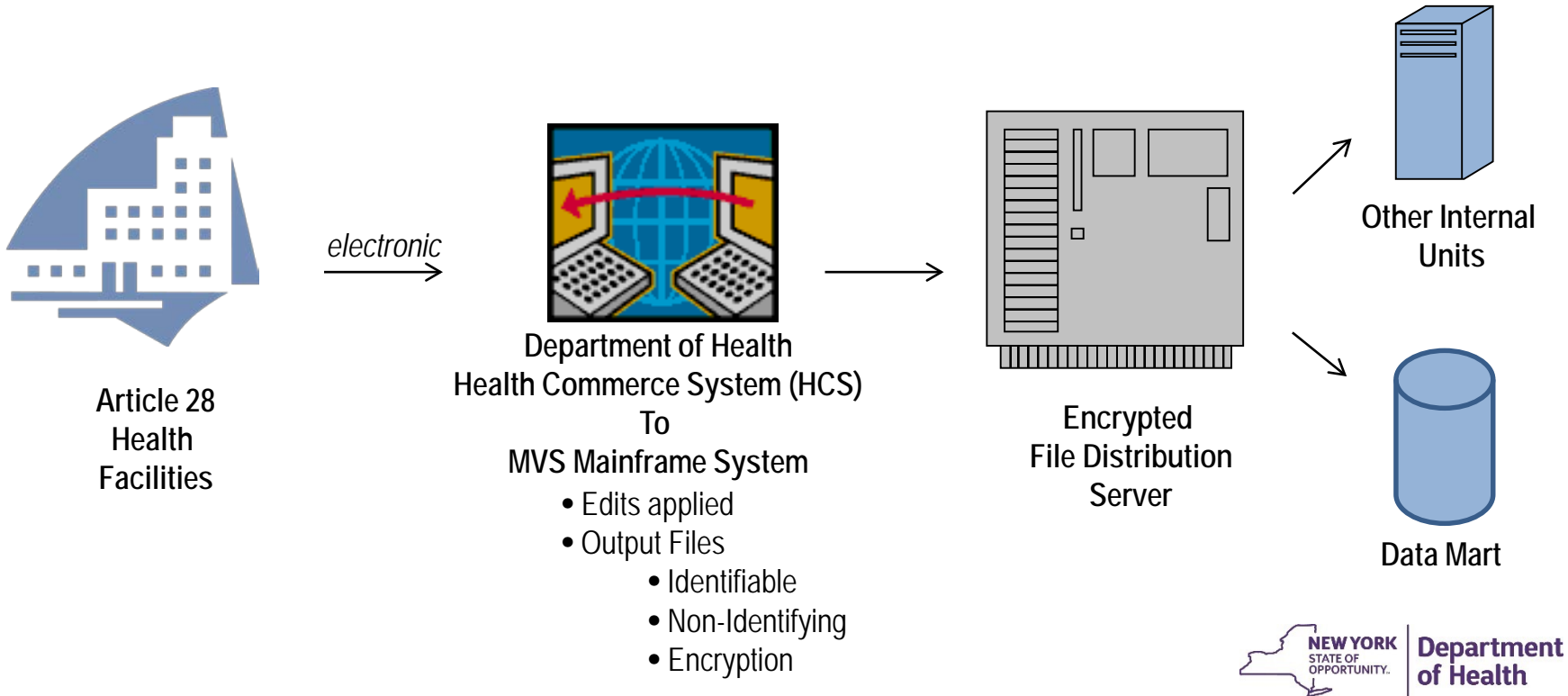
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# SPARCS Currently

- SPARCS has been in existence for over 35 years: established through statute in 1979
  - New York was the first to collect this type of data.
- 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 expanded outpatient data collection (EODC) in New York State

# Current SPARCS Submission Process



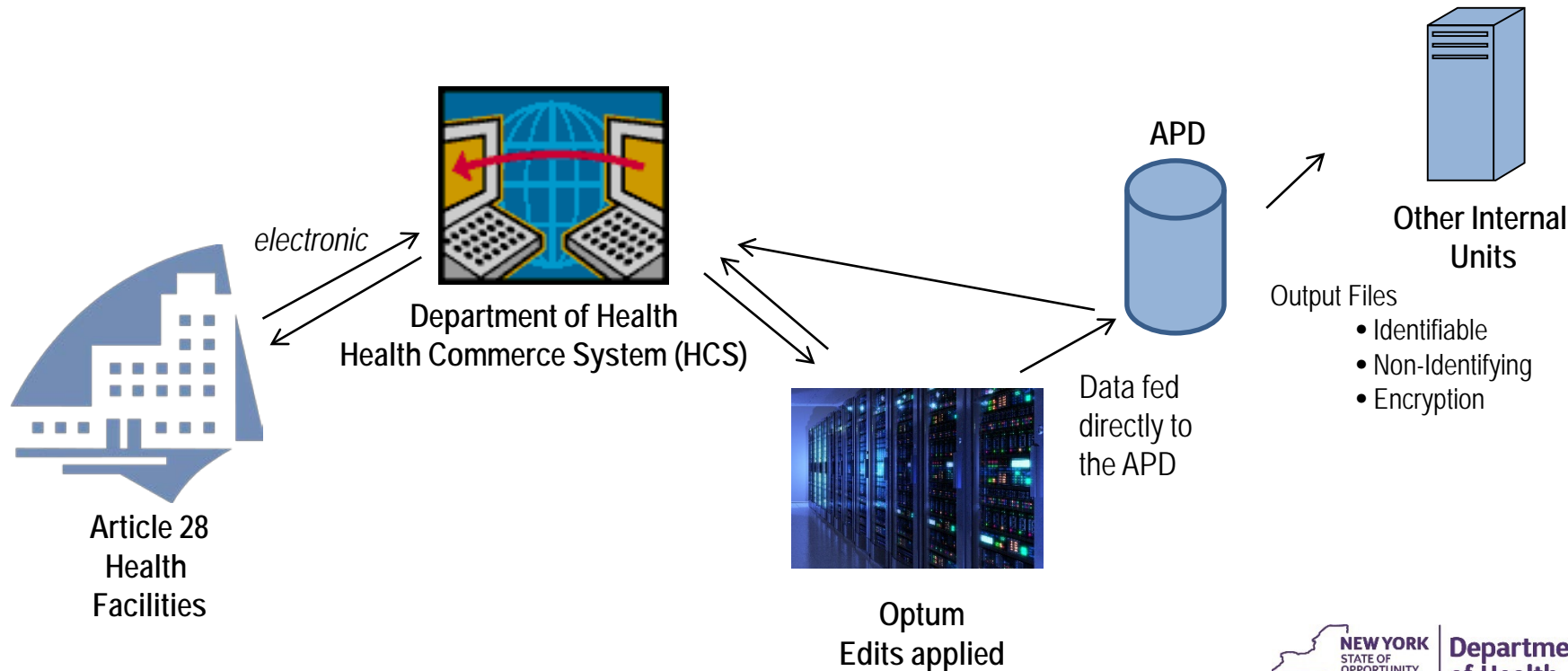
# Current SPARCS Submission Process

- Health care facilities submit their SPARCS data in an electronic, computer-readable format following the 837R format for New York State purposes.
- The processing programs have experienced a series of modifications to the original file structure over these past 35+ years.
  - Includes data elements and edits that are unique to New York State.

# SPARCS New Submission Process

- NYSDOH has partnered with Optum Government Solutions, Inc. (Optum) for a new processing system.
- The time schedule for building the new system is aggressive;
  - Under 12 months
- During the transition, dual systems will be run for a portion of the time; essentially until the system passes all validation processes.

# SPARCS New Submission Process



# SPARCS New Submission Process

## The Concept

- Take the current data stream that facilities use to submit bills to their payers and use a modified version of that data for the SPARCS data submissions.
- Have the data processed by edits which mostly mirror the national standard edits.
- Receive back the reports and files that are:
  - Standard to x12 environment and/or
  - Clear and concise in explanation of the problem with those records

# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Data Format

- Use the data that is currently submitted to payers; with a few added data elements needed from a public health perspective
- Will be using the x225 837R
  - Essentially the x12 837I with:
    - A segment for race/ethnicity
    - Use the NTE segment to collect:
      - Source of Payment Typology
      - Cardiac data elements
- Most 'New York State-isms' are gone;  
i.e. Expected Reimbursements, Method of Anesthesia





# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Data Format –con't

- Data elements in the X12 file that SPARCS has not previously taken will be collected.
  - Following standard x12 rules on whether required, situational, etc.
- Includes the following data elements:
  - Patient's First and Last names
    - SPARCS will now construct the Unique Personal IDs
  - National Provider ID
    - State Provider License Numbers will no longer required

# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Edits

- For standard x12 data elements, will be following the standard X12 edits.
- For the couple of New York State data elements, edits will be straightforward:
  - Payment Typology => appropriate codes, version 7
  - Cardiac => valid values
- Gone are the New York State specific edits
  - i.e. statement from date = admission date

# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Reports

- Two types of reports will be available:
  - The standard x12 edit and error reports; more machine based as they come back in x12 format.
    - 999 (Implementation Acknowledgement)
    - 277CA (Health Care Claim Status Response transaction)
    - 837R (Error Records returned )
  - For those facilities that would prefer user readable format, reports will be available that are clear and concise in explaining the reason of the error/rejection.
    - i.e. this record failed this edit (code and description) because of this reason



# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Changes to note

- Once the processing identifies an error in a record, processing of that record is stopped. That record is placed in the error file and the process continues onto the next record.
  - No more reporting of all errors on a record.
  - A record may have to be submitted multiple times until error free

# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Changes to note – con't

- Health Commerce System (HCS) will be updated at this time too.
  - Taking advantage of the processing rebuild, the HCS will be updated to strengthen security and it's capabilities.
  - Differences in appearance and functionality between the current and updated versions may occur.
  - SPARCS Operations will notify facilities of these changes as we are aware of them.

# SPARCS New Submission Process

## Finally

- This Webinar is the first in a series of bi-weekly webinars to be held throughout the transition to the new system.
  - Schedule, with topics, will be sent next week.
- Purpose of these webinars is to update the facilities and their vendors to the details of the changes.
- A stakeholders meeting will be held in Albany.
  - The date is TBD; either last week in July/1st week in August.
  - Purpose is to have face-to-face discussions on the new process
- Sampling of facilities on issues will occur as they arise.



# Contact Information

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# SPARCS New Submission Process

**QUESTIONS**