

# SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

April 2014

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

## General Announcements

### *Federal Delay of ICD-10 Implementation*

On Tuesday, April 1, 2014 President Obama signed into law H.R. 4302, Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014. The signed bill states that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) cannot adopt the ICD-10 code set as the standard until at least October 1, 2015.

SPARCS will adhere to the new federal compliance time frame for ICD-10 implementation and will not accept ICD-10 codes in the production environment until October 1, 2015 at the earliest.

SPARCS will use the time frame of delay to better assess and address implementation challenges and provide facilities additional time for testing. If there are any questions, please contact us at [sparcs@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sparcs@health.state.ny.us).

### *Health Innovation Challenge*

On March 26, 2014, New York State Department of Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah, MD, MPH announced the launch of New York State's inaugural **Health Innovation Challenge**, a four-month project that is being held in collaboration with the New York State Health Foundation.

The **Health Innovation Challenge** will build on the open government initiatives and provide a way for innovators to put health data to good use. The challenge invites multidisciplinary teams of coders and developers to create a technological solution that addresses the lack of accessible and useful information about the quality, cost, and efficiency of health care services.

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SPARCS data sets will be utilized for the Challenge, and new data from SPARCS is now available on Health Data NY (<https://health.data.ny.gov/>). The Hospital Inpatient Prevention Quality Indicators for Adult Discharges (SPARCS) data, for years 2009 to 2012, presents the calculated AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs). These are based on the SPARCS discharge data that was released on by the Department on its Health Data NY website on September 25, 2013.

The recently released datasets contain information on the Year, Patient Geographical Area (County or Zip Code), the PQI measure, and the Observed and Expected rates per 100,000. These two distinct datasets (one by Patient County, the other by Patient Zip Code) allow comparison with the state average, thereby identifying geographical variation. PQIs can assist in identifying areas where if good outpatient care is provided could potentially prevent the need for hospitalization, or for which early intervention can prevent complications or more severe disease.

For more information about the **Health Innovation Challenge** and registration details, please visit <http://www.health2con.com/devchallenge/nys-health-innovation-challenge/>.

## Compliance and Quality Improvement

### *ICR to SPARCS Comparison*

As part of ongoing efforts to improve SPARCS data quality, the results of a recent analysis that compares SPARCS inpatient data with Institutional Cost Report (ICR) inpatient data were e-mailed to SPARCS inpatient facilities on April 7, 2014. The time period covered in this report is 2009 through 2012. The reports produced included comparisons of days, discharges, and total charges. Facilities that met the thresholds for under/over reporting are flagged in the report. If your facility did not receive a copy of this report, please e-mail [sparcs@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sparcs@health.state.ny.us) and a copy will be sent to you.

Please carefully review the data for your facility. Any under/over reporting of SPARCS could have an effect on your facility's Medicaid rate. The maintenance of quality data is critical to the use of SPARCS data for reimbursement purposes, as well as to the growing use of the data for mandated functions of the Department.

### *Computer Vendor Survey*

In March, SPARCS e-mailed a computer vendor survey to all SPARCS coordinators to document the name of the software vendors that healthcare facilities are utilizing to create their billings and the SPARCS file. A third of the healthcare facilities that are required to report to SPARCS have responded to the computer vendor survey. Follow-up phone calls will be made this month to the non-responders. Those facilities that have not returned their computer vendor survey are encouraged to send their completed survey to [sparcs@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sparcs@health.state.ny.us). Those facilities that prefer to send a hard copy may return the survey by fax (518) 486-6098. If there are questions about the survey, please contact SPARCS Operations at (518) 473-8144.

## Data Collection, Storage, and Release

### SPARCS Health Data Query System

The SPARCS Health Data Query System is now available on the DOH public website at <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubdoh/sparcsqry/>. The query system generates reports by year, from SPARCS data. Reports on patients, days, and charges may be grouped by Facility, County, Health Service Area (HSA), or Commission Catchment Area (CCA). The query system can create simple listings, as well as comparisons. Comparison reports will show the selected report type compared by year, facility, county, HAS, or CCA.

### SPARCS Data Release: Limited and Identifiable

All requests for limited and identifiable data should be submitted to [dprb@health.state.ny.us](mailto:dprb@health.state.ny.us).

The following organizations received SPARCS data files in March 2014:

Organization	Data File Type	Years
CBIZ KA Consulting Services, LLC	Limited	2012-2013
Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency	Identifiable	2011-2012
HealthCare Intelligence, LLC	Identifiable	2012-2013
Hospital Executive Council	Limited	2012
Hospital for Special Surgery	Identifiable	2012
Hunter College	Limited	2012
IPRO	Identifiable	2012
Milliman Inc.	Limited	2012
Mount Sinai Medical Center	Identifiable	1982-2012
National Bureau of Economic Research	Identifiable	1998-2003
Next Wave Inc.	Identifiable	2012
The Chartis Group, LLC	Limited	2013
Total Benchmark Solutions, LLC	Limited	2012
Truven Health Analytics	Limited	2013

The complete list of approved identifiable data requests is maintained on the Department's website:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dprb/approved\\_data\\_req.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dprb/approved_data_req.htm)

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**We welcome comments and feedback.**

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**SPARCS Update** newsletters are distributed electronically to individuals with Health Commerce System (HCS) data upload access, subscribers to SPARCS-L, and other interested parties upon request. Updates are available online at:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/info.htm>