

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

July/August 2016

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

General Announcements

Medicaid Breast Cancer Surgery Volume Projections

The New York State Department of Health is in the process of performing its ninth annual review of breast cancer surgical volumes and is pleased to share facilities' provisional breast cancer surgery volume designations (Low-Volume, Low-Volume Approved, and High-Volume) as determined by data submitted to SPARCS from August 2013, through July 2016. These data are in support of the Department's Breast Cancer Selective Contracting Policy, whereby Medicaid will not pay for mastectomy or lumpectomy procedures performed at hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers averaging fewer than 30 surgeries per year over a three-year period.

The results from the Department's summer analysis were emailed to facilities' SPARCS coordinators on August 3rd. It is expected that release of these data will streamline the Breast Cancer Selective Contracting process by giving facilities ample time to correct discrepancies between facility-calculated volume and SPARCS-calculated volume.

If you have any questions regarding the summer data, please contact Anisa Proj at (518) 486-9012, or send an email to Anisa.Proj@health.ny.gov.

Annual Vendor Renewal

SPARCS requires an annual renewal of the data agreement between the healthcare facility and the vendor that submits SPARCS data on their behalf. Last year, the renewal dates were rolling dates. These rolling dates were a year after the original data agreement, DOH-4388, had been submitted. Going forward, as previously announced, all annual vendor renewals will take place in July and August of each year. Emails have been sent to all healthcare facility employees who signed the original document. As long as there is no change to

Table of Contents

General Announcements

- Medicaid Breast Cancer Surgery Volume Projections
- Annual Vendor Renewal

Compliance

- Monthly
- Quarterly

Data Release

- Data Governance Committee
- Limited and Identifiable

Submitter Notes

- Uploading Data: Response Time and Submissions Timing Out

information provided on the original form, the healthcare facility employee only needs to attest that the vendor will continue to submit data on their behalf until July 31, 2017. If there is any change in the information provided on the DOH-4388, a new DOH-4388 will need to be completed and filed.

Compliance

Monthly

NYCRR 400.18 requires health care facilities to submit at least 95 percent of their total SPARCS inpatient discharges and outpatient visits within 60 days of the end of the month of a patient’s discharge or visit. After the monthly August update, SPARCS will be sending a warning email to those facilities that have submitted no inpatient and/or no outpatient SPARCS data for visits and discharges that occurred in the month of May 2016.

Quarterly

First Quarter 2016 SPARCS Reconciliation Period. NYCRR 400.18 requires health care facilities to submit 100 percent of their total SPARCS inpatient discharges and outpatient visits within 180 days from the end of the quarter of the patient’s discharge or visit. For visits and discharges that occurred in the months of January to March 2016, SPARCS expects all data to be submitted by **September 30, 2016**. During the reconciliation period SPARCS expects the facilities to conduct an audit of their internal records and verify that those patient records match the number of records in the SPARCS data. The first warning email was sent in July. The second warning email will be sent to the SPARCS coordinators of facilities that have submitted fewer than the expected number of records for the months of January, February, and March 2016.

1st Quarter (Q1)	
Month of Submission	January – March 2016 Activities
January 2016	
February 2016	
March 2016	
April 2016	Beginning Q1 Reconciliation Period
May 2016	
June 2016	
July 2016	Q1 Warning Email 1
August 2016	Q1 Warning Email 2
	Q1 Warning Email 3
	End Quarter 1
September 2016	Reconciliation Period 9/30/2016
October 2016	Statement of Deficiency issued

Fourth quarter 2015 reconciliation period. SPARCS allows two (2) one-month extensions beyond the end of the reconciliation period. This period ended June 30, 2016 for the fourth quarter 2015 reconciliation

period. The last extension ends August 31, 2016. For the facilities that have not resolved their submission delays by that date, a Statement of Deficiency will be issued.

Data Release

Data Governance Committee

The SPARCS Data Governance Committee convened on July 18, 2016. The following SPARCS identifiable data requests were presented to the Committee during this meeting:

Request #	Project Title	Organization Name
1607-04	Occult Uterine Cancer and Power Morcellation in Hysterectomy and Myomectomy	Yale School of Medicine
1607-05	Using Inpatient and Outpatient Claims Data to Measure the Effects of Providers on Use and Outcomes of Surgical Procedures	University of Pennsylvania
1607-06	Trends and Outcomes of Management of Common Foot Conditions	University of Rochester
1607-09	Housing Trajectories of Transition-Age Youth	CIDI-Office of the Mayor

The next meeting of the SPARCS Data Governance Committee will be held on August 30, 2016.

Limited and Identifiable

The following organizations received SPARCS data from June 8, 2016 through July 29, 2016.

Organization	Data Type	Years
Methods Analytics	Limited	2006-2015
Bassett Healthcare	Identifiable	2015-2016
CUNY Hunter College	Limited	2011-2014
CUNY John Jay College	Identifiable	2015-2016
DataBay Resources	Limited	2015
Dutchess County Department of Health	Limited	2015-2016
Evariant	Limited	2015-2016
Finger Lakes Health System Agency	Identifiable	2015-2016
Hackensack University Medical Center	Limited	2015
HANYS	Identifiable	2015-2016
Health Quest	Limited	2016
Hospital Executive Council	Limited	2015-2016
iVantage Health Analytics	Limited	2015-2016
Lexis Nexis, Risk Solutions, Healthcare	Limited	2015-2016
Long Island Jewish Health Network	Limited	2015
Mount Sinai Medical Center	Identifiable	2008-2014
New York Presbyterian Hospital	Limited	2000-2015
Northwell Health	Identifiable	2015-2016

Organization	Data Type	Years
NYS Office of Mental Health	Identifiable	2015-2016
O'Conco Healthcare Consultants	Limited	2015
Old Dominion University	Limited	2014
Rochester Regional Health	Limited	2015-2016
SG2- MedAssets	Limited	2015-2016
Vermont Hospital Association and Health Systems	Limited	2015-2016
Visiting Nurse Service of NY	Limited	2015
Western CT Health Network	Limited	2015-2016
Yale New Haven Health System	Limited	2015-2016

The complete list of approved identifiable data requests dating back to 2009 is on the public webpage at the following address: http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/appr_data_req.htm.

Submitter Notes

Uploading Data: Response Time and Data Timing Out

For facilities that are not receiving an edit report on the Health Commerce System's Submission Results page after submitting a SPARCS file, here are some scenarios to consider before uploading the file again.

- First, when submitting on heavy-traffic days, such as Monday and Tuesday before weekly and monthly updates, the wait time to get the edit file back after submission may be longer than the usual two to three hours.
- Second, resubmitting a file, that will eventually be processed, will add to the congestion of the HCS and will create an unresolved exception on your history summary report.
- Third, check the SPARCS submission results page for failure notices.
- Fourth, for vendors and facilities that report for multiple facilities, check to see if there is a failure notice on one of the other facility's submission results page. You may have accidentally submitted your SPARCS file to the wrong facility's upload page.

For facilities that suspect that they are missing a SPARCS data file:

- Give the SPARCS file 24 hours to process on the heavy-traffic days (Monday and Tuesday before a weekly, or monthly update).
- Contact SPARCS (SPARCS.submission@health.ny.gov) and provide the following information
 - Your PFI (Permanent Facility Identifier)
 - The confirmation log number (an X number). The confirmation of the receipt of your SPARCS file is sent as a notice that appears as a webpage after you submit your file.
 - Type of data, either outpatient or inpatient
 - Production or test file
 - Date and approximate time of the day the file was submitted

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SPARCS Update newsletters are distributed electronically to individuals who have Health Commerce System (HCS) data upload access, subscribers to SPARCS-L, and other interested parties upon request.

*Updates are also available online at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/newsletters/>*