

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

October 2013

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

Expanded Race and Ethnicity Reporting

In response to questions and concerns regarding the expanded race and ethnicity reporting requirements effective January 1, 2014; the Department would like to clarify that the current categories of E1 (Spanish/Hispanic Origin), R2 (Asian), and R4 (Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander) have been enhanced to include the more granular levels of race and ethnicity.

While SPARCS will continue to allow the higher values (E1, R2, R4), submitters are encouraged to report the more detailed data instead. Data submissions will be monitored to ensure that the more granular values are reported over time.

Additional information on the expanded race and ethnicity reporting may be found on the DOH website at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/faqs/#ERE>

Upcoming Webinar Training Sessions

The following webinar training sessions regarding the new race ethnicity reporting requirement are planned for October through December 2013. To register, please visit:
<http://www.hanys.org/events/>

Webinar: Improving and Expanding SPARCS Race and Ethnicity Data Collection

October 10, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM

Target Audience: SPARCS coordinators. This training is designed to: describe why improved race and ethnicity data will help in identifying disparities in healthcare quality; identify national legislative/regulatory attention to race and ethnicity data; describe steps to improve quality of data collection and expand race and ethnicity categories; and describe how to code the expanded race and ethnicity data categories.

Highlights



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Webcast: Collecting the Data: First Steps in Achieving Health Equity

October 17, 2013; 9:00-10:30 AM

Target Audience: Hospital administration and staff, healthcare facility administration and staff, doctors, nurses, healthcare providers, and public health workforce. This webcast will address the rationale, challenges, and successes of race, ethnicity, and other disparities data collection efforts; explain why hospitals, emergency rooms, and surgery centers are logical places for data collection; and provide a roadmap for how to begin making the changes necessary to succeed.

For additional information, please visit: http://www.albany.edu/sph/cphce/phl_1013.shtml

Webinar: Addressing Healthcare Disparities through Better Data Collection

October 22, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM

Target Audience: Physician leadership, hospital executives, quality improvement advisers, and medical staff. This one-hour webinar is part of the initiative of the NYS Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team. It will focus on the critical role of hospital leaders in aligning quality improvement goals with addressing health care disparities through better data collection.

Webinar: Lessons From the Field: Closing the Quality Gap in Healthcare Disparities through Better Data Collection

November 12, 2013; 1:00-2:00 PM

Target Audience: Physician leadership, hospital executives, quality improvement advisers, and medical staff. This webinar will discuss NYS' initiative to collect data using a uniform framework and how collecting accurate data helps your organization track progress over time. In addition, it allows for comparisons within organizations, across organizations, as well as at a national level. It will highlight lessons from other facilities in their effort to expand data collection to address healthcare disparities through measurement, reporting, and benchmarking as elements in improving care.

Webinar: The Nuts and Bolts of Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data: Staff Training

December TBA; Time TBA

Target Audience: Directors/supervisors of hospital admission and registration staff. This webinar addresses what standardized race and ethnicity data are and why they are important to collect. It also provides the strategies and tools to help staff successfully collect patient race and ethnicity data and respond to patient questions and concerns.

ICD-10 Reporting Update

Department staff is currently developing the processes for SPARCS data submissions under the upcoming ICD-10 transition, which becomes effective October 1, 2014. We are in the process of defining the ICD-10 gender, age, E-Code, and other diagnosis code edits. Example of these processes include submission edits

on age and gender appropriate codes, code based generation of data elements, (e.g., newborn indicator) and diagnostic code groupings (e.g., AHRQ Clinical Classification System, APR-DRG, etc.). As more information becomes available on these new processes, it will be made available to facilities and their vendors. We welcome comments, questions, and feedback to: SPARCS@health.state.ny.us

Hospital Race and Ethnicity Concordance

The Department is currently conducting analysis on the reporting of race and ethnicity by facilities in their SPARCS submissions and comparing the results to other data sources (e.g., Vital Statistics, Medicaid) for concordance/discordance. Overall findings and hospital-specific reports will be produced and shared with facilities to assist them in making data improvements (if indicated).

Health Data NY

On September 25, 2013, Commissioner Shah announced the release of SPARCS hospital discharge data on its Health Data NY website (health.data.ny.gov). The SPARCS Inpatient De-Identified Data contain inpatient hospital discharge level detail on patient characteristics, diagnoses, treatments, services, and source of payment for all hospitals in New York State. It is important to note that the data do not contain health information that is protected under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The data expand upon previously summarized SPARCS data that were published on Health Data NY in March.

Health Data NY supports Governor Cuomo's OPEN NY initiative and its respective state data transparency website, open.ny.gov. All health data available on Health Data NY are also accessible at open.ny.gov, as well as the federal government's health open data site, HealthData.gov.

The Commissioner's press release can be viewed at:
http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2013/2013-09-25_data_available_health_data_ny.htm

SPARCS Data Submissions

SPARCS data for calendar year 2012 have been deemed complete. Those data users wanting to obtain the 2012 SPARCS data should contact the Department at: SPARCS@health.state.ny.us

Vendor Agreement Form

The new vendor agreement form (DOH-4388) is now available on the DOH website at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/forms/>. All vendors submitting data on behalf of a facility must have a vendor agreement form on file with SPARCS Operations.

Verification of Facility-Specific SPARCS Coordinators

In order to communicate more effectively with facilities submitting SPARCS data, SPARCS Operations staff has been contacting facilities to verify the information we have on file for your facility.

We ask that facilities please e-mail SPARCS@health.state.ny.us with any changes to SPARCS Coordinators or SPARCS Backup Coordinators (name, phone, and e-mail).

SPARCS Regulations

Proposed amendments to section 400.18 of Title 10 NYCRR were published in the August 28, 2013 New York State Register with a 45 day public comment period that will end close of business October 15, 2013.

Proposed amendments have the following objectives: 1) delete obsolete language; 2) realign the regulation to reflect current HIPAA-compliant practices; 3) add new provisions, including the provision of mandated outpatient service data collection; 4) add provisions to assure data completeness and quality; and 5) improve access to data.

The fourth and fifth objectives support statewide objectives of data transparency and release to further health and well-being of New Yorkers (consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations), including the Governor's open data initiative, Health Data NY (<https://www.health.data.ny.gov/>).

If enacted, the Data Protection Review Board (DPRB) will be dissolved. All requests for identifiable SPARCS data will be submitted to a SPARCS Administrator, who will review and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health for approval.

These proposed changes to the regulations were discussed at the DPRB meeting held in Albany on September 18, 2013. Questions and comments on the proposed regulations from this meeting are currently being prepared for formal response to the proposed changes.

Questions to the Department on the proposed regulations may be sent to DPRB@health.state.ny.us.

We welcome comments and feedback. Please contact us at:

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