

SPARCS Update

New York State Department of Health

October 2014

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

General Announcements

Statistical Briefs #2, #3, and #4

The following statistical briefs were released in October:

- #2: New York State All Payer Prevention Quality Indicator (PQI) Rates, 2009-2012
- #3: New York State All Payer Potentially Preventable Readmission (PPR) Rates, 2009-2012
- #4: New York State All Payer Potentially Preventable Emergency Room Visits (PPV), 2011-2012

All statistical briefs can be accessed using this link:

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

Compliance and Quality Improvement

Compliance

October 2014 started the **Second Quarter 2014 Reconciliation Compliance** period. All (100%) SPARCS data for visits or stays that ended in the months of April, May, and June 2014 are due **December 31, 2014**. During this period, SPARCS Coordinators are expected to review their second quarter data and determine if all their SPARCS data has been submitted or if the number of patient records submitted is less than the number of records expected (target), as found on the Compliance Report. The target is 80% (75% for the historical low volume months of February and December) of the monthly average number of previous year's patient records received by type of data: inpatient, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, or outpatient services. If a monthly patient volume is less than the target, SPARCS Coordinators must request an exception. Exceptions should be made by e-mailing sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov. Exceptions are a SPARCS protocol that allow the month and type of data to be exempt from compliance. Exceptions may not be granted when a

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facility has unexplained unresolved errors in excess of 1% of the submitted number of records.

SPARCS will begin the **Second Quarter 2014 Reconciliation Compliance** period by sending SPARCS Coordinators e-mails on October 16, 2014 and November 12, 2014. The e-mails are warnings stating that the SPARCS data—as recorded on the monthly Compliance Report for April, May, and June 2014—is less than expected. A copy of the final e-mail will be sent on December 10, 2014 to the C.E.O. or administrator. Statements of Deficiency will be sent to the C.E.O. or administrator on January 14, 2014.

Date	2nd Quarter (April-June Visits Discharges) Reconciliation
October 16, 2014	<u>2nd Quarter</u> 1st Warning Letter
November 12, 2014	<u>2nd Quarter</u> 2nd Warning Letter
December 10, 2014	<u>2nd Quarter</u> 3rd Warning Letter; (2nd Quarter Data Due 12/31/2014)
January 14, 2015	Statement of Deficiency Issued

Training/Support

Introduction for Data Users Presentation

The “Introduction for Data Users” presentation is now available online. SPARCS data is used by researchers for many reasons, including: epidemiological, financial, health planning resource allocation, quality of care assessment, rate setting, research studies, surveillance, and the review of utilization resources. If you are interested in using SPARCS data for any of the above types of research, please review the “Introduction for Data Users” PowerPoint presentation on the public website:

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

Data Release

Data Governance Committee

The New York State Department of Health’s new SPARCS Data Governance Committee held its first meeting on September 29, 2014. As reported in the September newsletter, the Committee was established to review identifiable data requests; it supersedes the SPARCS Data Protection Review Board (DPRB). Nine SPARCS data requests were presented at the meeting. Applicants were present by phone to answer questions from Committee members. All requests were voted on and approved. Decisions were made to include additional information in our security recommendations document and to establish versioning to multiple document renditions.

Limited and Identifiable

The combined limited and identifiable data request application (DOH-5132) can be downloaded from the forms section of the SPARCS public website. DOH-5132 replaces the previous DOH-4385 and DOH-4395 forms. SPARCS data request applications should be submitted to sparcs.requests@health.ny.gov.

For the list of all approved identifiable data request, visit the public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dgc/>.

The following organizations received limited or identifiable SPARCS data files in September 2014:

Organization	Data File Type	Years
Brown University	Identifiable	2005-2012
Hospital Executive Council	Limited	2013
IPRO	Identifiable	2013
Long Island Health Network	Identifiable	2013
NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation	Limited	2011-2013
Truven Health Analytics	Limited	2013
University of Chicago Medicine	Limited	2002-2012

We always welcome questions, comments, and feedback. Please contact us at:

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Newsletters: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/newsletters/>