Introduction to SPARCS

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Bureau of Health Informatics
Office of Quality and Patient Safety
New York State Department of Health
Albany, New York 12237

What is SPARCS?

- Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
  - Cooperation between the health care industry and government
- Been in existence over 30 years: established through statute in 1979
- Calendar Year Based Discharge/Visit Dataset
- Claim level detail on patient characteristics, diagnoses and treatments, services, and charges for hospital discharges, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, and hospital based outpatient service visits (or EODC) in New York State

SPARCS Data Collection

- **Inpatient Services**
  - Article 28

- **Outpatient Visits**
  - Emergency Department
  - Ambulatory Surgery
    - Free-Standing Diagnostic & Treatment Center (D&TC)
    - Hospital Based
  - Hospital Based Outpatient
    - EODC = Expanded Outpatient Data Collection

How is SPARCS Data Submitted?

- Health care facilities submit their SPARCS data in an electronic, computer-readable format through NYSDOH's secure electronic network: the **Health Commerce System**

- All SPARCS data must be supported by documentation in the patient's medical and billing records

SPARCS Submission Process

**Article 28
Health
Facilities**

electronic

**Department of Health
Health Commerce System (HCS)
To
MVS Mainframe System**

- Edits applied

Who Submits to SPARCS?

- Facilities licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law
- Freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (D&TC's)
- The enabling legislation and regulations for SPARCS are located under Section 2816 of the Public Health Law (PHL), Section 400.18 of Title 10 (Health) of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR)
  - State Finance Law, Article 6, 97-x (hospital fees)

SPARCS File Types

- **<u>Identifying/Deniable Data Requests</u>**: Contain data elements that if disclosed without any restrictions on use or re-disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - External applicants for Identifying Data must be approved by the **Data Protection Review Board (DPRB)**
- **<u>Limited</u>**: Contains some indirect patient identifiers, such as the month and year of date fields and some geographic identifiers of the patient
- **<u>De-Identified</u>**: Basic record level detail, all PHI removed ('FOIL File')

Many Uses of SPARCS Data

- Financial, Rate Setting (e.g., APR-DRG SIWs)
- Developing and Evaluating Policy
- Epidemiology
- Health Planning/Resource Allocation
- Quality of Care Assessment
- Research
- Surveillance
- Utilization Review
- Geo-coding
- Linkages with other data sets, registries, etc.

- AHRQ Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
- Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations (PQI/PDI)
- Potentially Preventable Readmissions (PPRs)
- Potentially Preventable Complications (PPCs)
- Patient Safety Indicators (PSI)
- Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs)
- Etc.

Approved External Requests

- A listing of Approved SPARCS Data Requests through December 31, 2012 may be found on the DOH Public Website at the following direct link:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/dprb/approved_data_req.htm

SPARCS Data: Available Years

Data Set	Available Years
Inpatient	1982 to Present
Ambulatory Surgery	1983 to Present
Emergency Room	2005 to Present
Outpatient Services	2011 to Present

Data Completeness

- Files are refreshed on a monthly basis
- The calendar year of discharge data is considered complete in September of the following year
  - CY 2012 discharges will be considered complete in September 2013
- Audit and Completeness Reports are posted monthly on the DOH public website

SPARCS Compliance

- Health care facilities must submit at least 95% of data for all inpatient discharges and outpatient visits within 60 days from the end of the month of a patient's discharge or visit
- Health care facilities must submit 100% of data for all inpatient discharges and outpatient visits within 180 days from the end of the month of a patient's discharge or visit

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/reports/compliance/pfi_facilities.htm

Expanded Race and Ethnicity
Timeline

- The SPARCS system will be able to accept reporting of the expanded data standards as of **July 1, 2013**

- Facilities should be fully transitioned to the expanded version for discharges as of **January 1, 2014**

Expanded Race and Ethnicity
The Standards

- Additional categories among Hispanic, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander populations

- Allow the reporting of up to ten selections of race and/or ethnicity

Ethnicity Data Standards

Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin? (*One or more categories may be selected*)

Ethnicity Standards			
Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin? (One or more categories may be selected)			
Current Data Standard		Expanded Data Standard	
X12 Value	Ethnicity	X12 Value	Ethnicity
E1	Spanish/Hispanic Origin		
		E1.02	Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a
		E1.06	Puerto Rican
		E1.07	Cuban
		E1.**	Another Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin
		E2	Not of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin
E9	Unknown	E9	Unknown

Race Data Standards
What is your race? (One or more categories may be selected)

Race Standards *What is your race? (One or more categories may be selected)*			
Current Data Standard		**Expanded Data Standard**	
X12 Value	**Race**	**X12 Value**	**Race**
R1	American Indian or Alaska Native	R1	American Indian or Alaska Native
R2	Asian		
		R2.01	Asian Indian
		R2.06	Chinese
		R2.08	Filipino
		R2.11	Japanese
		R2.12	Korean
		R2.19	Vietnamese
		R2.**	Other Asian
R3	Black or African American	R3	Black or African American
R4	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		
		R4.01.001	Native Hawaiian
		R4.02.001	Guamanian or Chamorro
		R4.01.002	Samoan
		R4.**.***	Other Pacific Islander
R5	White	R5	White
R9	Other Race	R9	Other Race

Expanded Race and Ethnicity
Other Requirements

- Race and ethnicity will remain mandatory for inpatient, emergency department and ambulatory surgery reporting
- They will remain optional for the Expanded Outpatient Data Collection (EODC)

SPARCS Data Fees

- External organizations requesting identifying SPARCS data are charged a reasonable fee for use. The fee is waived in the following circumstances:
  - Use by a Article 28 health care facility that submitted to the SPARCS program
  - Use by a Article 28 health care facility for the purpose of rate determinations or rate appeals and for health care-related research
  - Use by a Federal, New York State, county or local agency for health care-related purposes

Readily Available SPARCS Data

- Aggregated and discharge level SPARCS data is available on health.data.ny.gov

https://health.data.ny.gov/

SPARCS on the Web

- Department of Health Public Website
  - http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/
  - Updating is currently in process
- Health.data.ny.gov/ Open.NY.Gov

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Bureau of Health Informatics
Office of Quality and Patient Safety
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 878
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Phone: 518-473-8144
Fax: 518-486-3518

E-mail: SPARCS@health.state.ny.us (General Inquiries)
          DPRB@health.state.ny.us (Identifying Data Access Requests)
          BIO-INFO@health.state.ny.us (Data Release)