Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)

Overview

New York State Department of Health Office of Quality and Patient Safety Bureau of Outcomes Research

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The Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) is a comprehensive data reporting system which collects patient level detail on patient characteristics, diagnoses, treatments, services, and charges for every hospital discharge from an Article 28 facility; ambulatory surgery discharges from hospital-based ambulatory surgery centers and all other facilities providing ambulatory surgery services; and emergency department visits in New York State. SPARCS is a major management tool used to assist hospitals, agencies, and health care organizations with decision making regarding financial planning and monitoring of inpatient and ambulatory surgery services and costs.

SPARCS was established in 1979 as a result of cooperation between the health care industry and government. The enabling legislation and regulations for SPARCS are located under Section 28.16 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). Additional specifications for ambulatory surgery appear in Section 755.1 and Section 755.10. More information about the data submission, data distribution, data dictionaries and reports are available on the SPARCS website:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/

The data published in Health Data NY is a summary of the SPARCS data.

Limitations

This dataset is a summary of the SPARCS discharge data. It contains searchable variables which can be used to report the total number of discharges and average length of stay. The use of this dataset allows the replication of many of the tables in the SPARCS Annual Report. The data is split into two datasets, Hospital Discharges by Patient County of Residence and Hospital Discharges by Facility, to preserve the confidentiality of identifiable individual information.