



**Department
of Health**

Quality and SPARCS Data

Where We Are - Where We Are Going?

Presented by:

**John Piddock, Director, SPARCS
Bureau of Health Informatics
Division of Information and Statistics**

June 8, 2015

Agenda

1. Introduction to SPARCS
2. Amended Regulations
3. Submission Requirements
4. Compliance-Quality
5. NYS Health Profiles and Health Data NY

Introduction to SPARCS

What is SPARCS?

- Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
 - Cooperation between the health care industry and government
- Been in existence over 35 years: established through statute in 1979
- Calendar Year Based Discharge/Visit Dataset
- All payer 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
- Public web link: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/>
 - SPARCS Operations Manual
 - Data Governance Policy and Procedures

Who Submits to SPARCS?

- Facilities licensed under Article 28 of the Public Health Law
- Freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (D&TC's)

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

Where is SPARCS Located?

Bureau of Health Informatics

New Address:

Bureau of Health Informatics

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

NYS Department of Health

Corning Tower, Room 1970

Albany, New York 12237

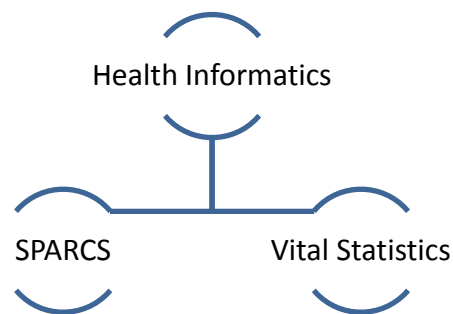
Phone: 518-473-8144

Fax: 518-486-3518

E-mail: SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov (General Inquiries)

SPARCS.requests@health.state.ny.gov (Data Access)

BIO-INFO@health.ny.gov (Vital Statistics)

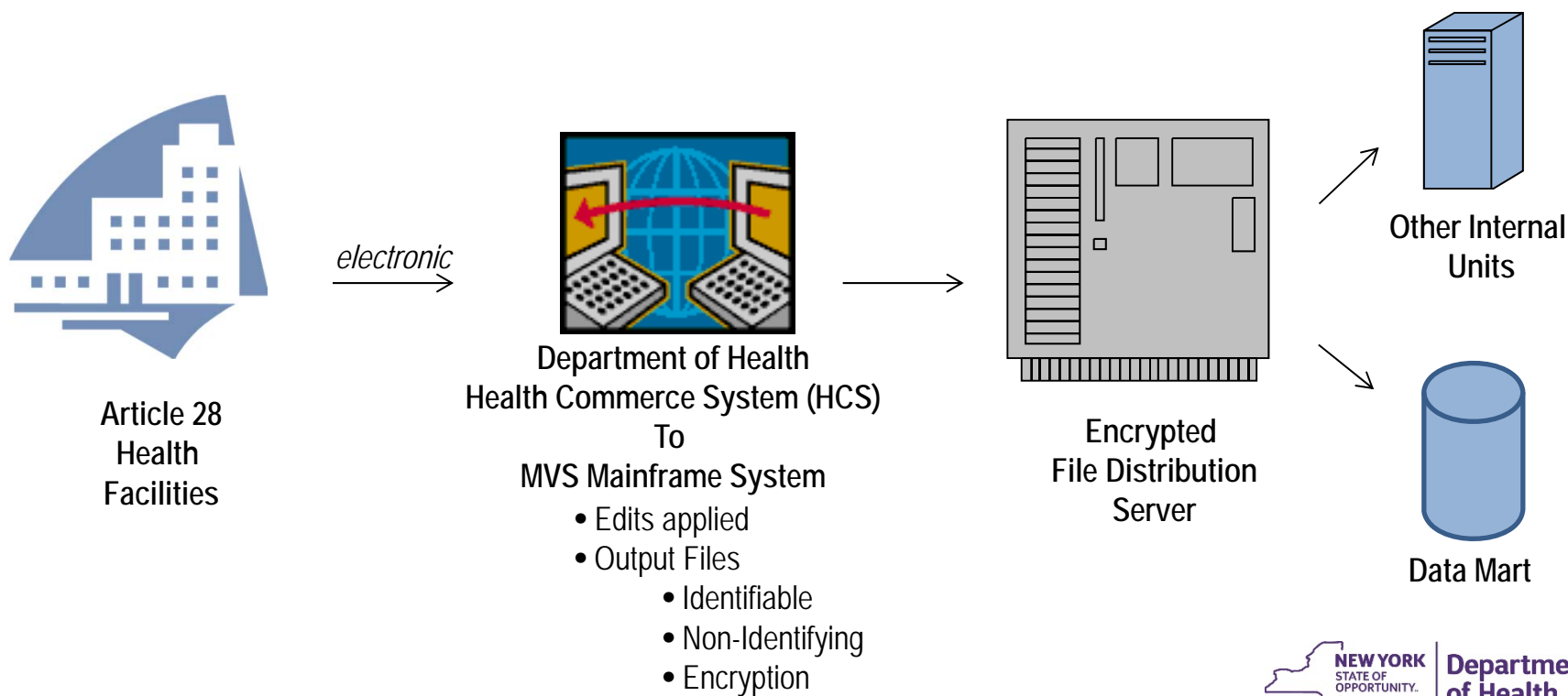


The Bureau of Health Informatics supports the Office of Quality and Patient Safety objectives of improving data timeliness, accuracy, integrity and accessibility, inclusive of both the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) and Vital Statistics (VS).

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

SPARCS Submission Process



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)
- AHRQ Quality, Efficiency and Patient Safety Measures (i.e. IQI, PQI/PDIs, PSIs)
- 3M Efficiency Measures (i.e. PPVs, PPRs, PPCs)

Amended Regulations

Enabling Legislation and Regulations

- 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 regulations were amended in September 2014.

Amended Regulations

On September 3, 2014, the new regulations for SPARCS were published in the NYS Register, thereby codifying them.

These new regulations were amendments to the original regulations in section 400.18 of Title 10 NYCRR.

The purpose of the new regulations were to

- delete obsolete language
- realign to current practice
- add new provisions

Amended Regulations

With the new regulations,

- The SPARCS Data Governance Policy and Procedure Manual (http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/sparcs/training/docs/sparcs_dgc_manual.pdf) was released.
- The creation of the Data Governance Committee, which supersedes the Data Protection Review Board (DPRB), to review identifiable data requests.

Amended Regulations

Some of the provisions of the new regulations include:

- Health care facilities, or their vendor, must submit, on a monthly basis, data for all inpatient discharges and outpatient visits.
- At least 95 percent of data for all inpatient discharges and outpatient visits must be submitted within sixty (60) days from the end of the month of a patient's discharge or visit.
- 100 percent of data for all inpatient discharges and outpatient visits must be submitted within one hundred eighty (180) days from the end of the month of a patient's discharge or visit.

Amended Regulations

Some of the provisions of the new regulations include (con't):

- The SPARCS program may:
 - conduct an audit evaluating the quality of submitted SPARCS data
 - issue an audit report to a health care facility listing any inadequacies or inconsistencies in the data.
- Any health care facility so audited must submit corrected data to the SPARCS program within 90 days of the receipt of the audit report.

Submission Requirements

Submission Requirements

- 95% of the facility's SPARCS data must be submitted within 60 days following the end of the month of patient discharge/visit.
- 100% of the facility's SPARCS data is due within 180 days following the end of the month of the patient discharge/visit.
- SPARCS data must be submitted on a monthly basis.

Submission Requirements

The method of compliance is changing:

- Annual Reconciliation is being replaced with Quarterly Compliance.
 - Each quarter (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, etc) will have it's own reconciliation.

Compliance Based on Quality

Compliance Based on Quality

SPARCS, has been and continues to be committed to reliable data.

Consequently, questions about data quality are looked upon as positive steps to improve the data.

The more the data are used and scrutinized, the better it becomes.

Compliance Based on Quality

As such, the new regulations contain provisions for compliance based on quality.

As mentioned previously, some of the provisions of the new regulations include:

- The SPARCS program may:
 - conduct an audit evaluating the quality of submitted SPARCS data
 - issue an audit report to a health care facility listing any inadequacies or inconsistencies in the data
- Any health care facility so audited must submit corrected data to the SPARCS program within 90 days of the receipt of the audit report.

Compliance Based on Quality

With the new regulations, SPARCS Operations staff are developing a Quality Compliance Protocol.

This protocol will describe the process by which:

- SPARCS Operations staff monitor the quality of data from the facilities,
- How the facilities will be notified of issues and
- What measures can be enacted if those issues are not resolved.

Compliance Based on Quality

In general terms, SPARCS Operations will

- Evaluate the quality of submitted SPARCS data
- Issue reports listing any inadequacies or inconsistencies in the data.
- Any health care facility that receives a data quality report finding will be required to submit corrected data to the SPARCS program within 90 days of the receipt of the report.
 - Currently the case for submission compliance.

Compliance Based on Quality

- SPARCS will be reaching out to facilities to get their feedback on what should be included in the quality compliance protocol.
- SPARCS Operations staff work with facility contacts to help them determine the root cause of data quality issues and corrective actions undertaken.

Compliance Based on Quality

Evaluation of the data will begin with verification of SPARCS data. This is accomplished by various methods:

- Obvious conflicts within the data:
 - All patients of a facility have a county of residence as 'unknown/homeless', while having a NYS zip code
 - All patients of a facility have a first source of payment as 'self-pay'
 - Duplicative records
 - Identical records except that the facility information matches that of a sister facility

Compliance Based on Quality

- Duplicative records (con't)
 - Records for the
 - Same patient,
 - Seen on the same date and time,
 - Seen at the same facility,
 - For the same primary reason of care; however
 - An element of the Edit Key (Facility Indicator, Patient Control Number, Medical Record Number, and Statement Covers From and Thru Dates) has been modified; i.e. medical record number with an 'a' added to the end

Compliance Based on Quality

Verification of SPARCS data is accomplished by various methods (con't):

- Comparing identical records between different data files
 - For those common data elements, the values should be identical
 - Examples of data used for comparative analysis include:
 - Institutional Cost Reports (ICRs)
 - Cardiac Group (CABG, PCU)
 - Cancer Registry
 - Trauma Registry
 - Vital Statistics (Birth and Death)
 - Medicaid

Compliance Based on Quality

The first areas/data elements that SPARCS is planning to report on are:

- Source of Admission
- Source of Payment,
 - as well as comparing to Payment Typology
- Duplicative Records
- Valid Payer Identification Numbers

Compliance Based on Quality

Enforcement:

For cases where inadequacies or inconsistencies are found in the data, reports listing those cases will be issued to the facilities in question.

- Similar to the compliance reports currently issued for submissions.

For facilities that receive a data quality report finding, they must either:

- Report to the SPARCS program that the data in question truly reflects those discharges and patients, with documentation supporting that assertion, or
- Submit corrected data to the SPARCS program within 90 days of the receipt of the report.

Compliance Based on Quality

Enforcement (con't):

SPARCS staff will work with facility contacts to help them determine the root cause of data quality issues and corrective actions needed to be undertaken.

Failure to comply will result in Statements of Deficiency issued, with possible fines and other actions levied.

NYS Health Profiles and Health Data NY

NYS Health Profiles

- Hospitals profile was officially launched on 9/16/14: <http://profiles.health.ny.gov>
- Highly-frequented area of the DOH website
- Key redesign improvements:
 - Central access to the four profiles
 - Utilizes modern web technologies
 - Improved presentation and consumer usability
 - Enhanced ability to quickly view, bookmark, search, and compare hospitals on selected measures

NYS Health Profiles

Find and Compare Providers



Hospitals



Home Health



Nursing Homes



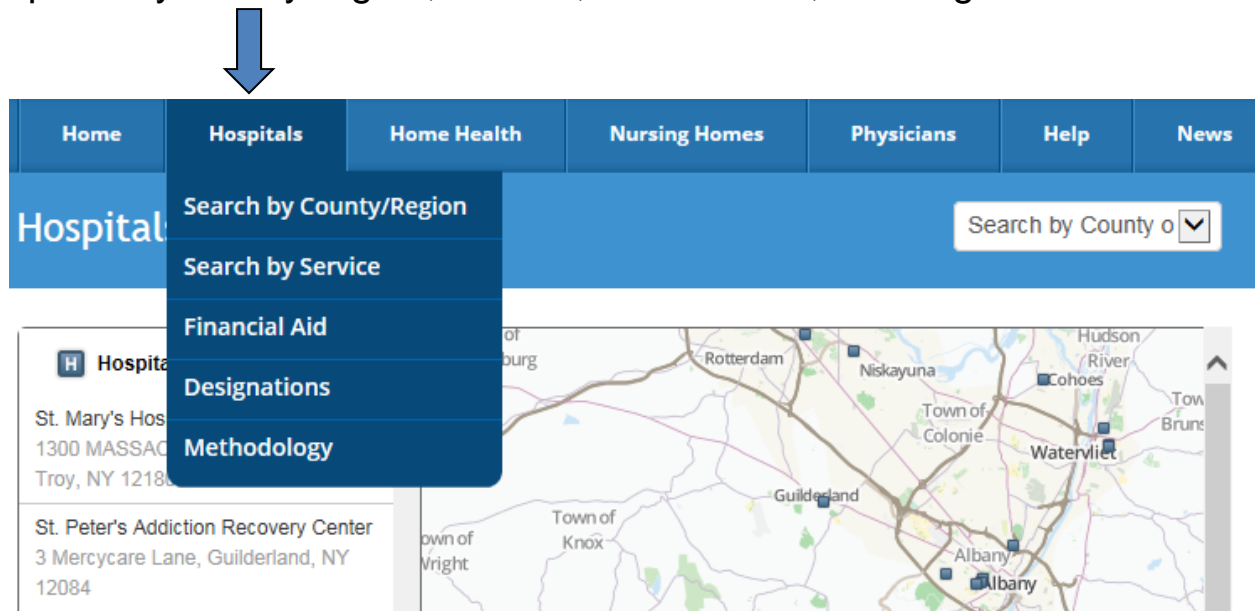
Physicians



Department
of Health

Hospital Profiles: Hospital Search

Search for hospitals by county/region, service, financial aid, or designations:



The screenshot shows a web application interface for hospital search. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Home, Hospitals, Home Health, Nursing Homes, Physicians, Help, and News. The 'Hospitals' tab is selected, and a dropdown menu is open, listing search options: Search by County/Region, Search by Service, Financial Aid, Designations, and Methodology. To the right of the dropdown is a search input field labeled 'Search by County' with a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation bar, there is a list of hospital profiles on the left and a map of the Albany region on the right. The map shows various towns including Rotterdam, Niskayuna, Town of Colonie, Watervliet, Albany, and Guilderland. The hospital list includes:

- H** Hospital
St. Mary's Hos
1300 MASSAC
Troy, NY 1218
- St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center
3 Mercycare Lane, Guilderland, NY
12084

Hospital Quality

- Nine quality measure groups are presented
- New measures will be added over time
- Methodology page provides detailed explanations
- Source data files are being added to the Health Data NY open data portal:
<https://health.data.ny.gov>

Albany Medical Center Hospital				
Overview	Quality	Maternity	Surgery	Inspections
Albany Medical Center Hospital				
<p>Quality in hospitals can be described as "doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way—and having the best possible results." This report provides information on how well the hospitals in New York care for patients with a wide range of health problems. It can help you choose a hospital for yourself and provide useful information for your loved ones if they need hospital care. Read more about hospital quality.</p>				
Complications		0.82		
Deaths - Cardiac Surgery				
Deaths - Other Conditions		1.10		
Emergency Department Timeliness		38 mins		
Hospital-Acquired Infections - Bloodstream		0.45		
Hospital-Acquired Infections - Surgical Site		0.83		
Patient Satisfaction		63.00%		
Readmissions Within 30 Days		20.21%		
Timely and Effective Care		99.25%		

Hospital Profiles

Hospital Profiles (con't)

Users of the site are encouraged to use this information to begin conversations with their doctor, hospital representatives, or other healthcare professionals about their condition(s) and available treatment options; as well as with family members, friends, and associates.

The site also provides information on such topics as “Choosing a Hospital” and Financial Aid”.

Health Data NY

Health Data NY

Launch of <https://health.data.ny.gov/> occurred 2 years ago.

Currently, SPARCS data for Inpatient Discharges, years 2009 to 2013, is available.

The site has both aggregated files and de-identified at the discharge level

Health Data NY

Additional data files on Health Data NY include:

- Median and Mean costs and charges by
 - APR-DRG and Severity of Illness
- For discharge level records, total charge and total cost
 - Total cost calculated using the Cost-to-Charge ratios

Health Data NY

Additional data files on Health Data NY include:

- Quality Measure data files
 - Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI/PDIs)
 - Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs)
 - Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs)
 - Potentially Preventable Complications (PPCs)
 - Potentially Preventable Readmissions (PPRs)
 - Potentially Preventable Visits (PPVs)

Contact Information

E-mail:

SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov
SPARCS.requests@health.ny.gov

Phone:

(518) 474-3189
(518) 473-8144

Listserv:

e-mail: sparcs@health.state.ny.us
subscribe: **sparcs-l** first_name last_name.

Fax:

(518) 486-3518

Mailing Address:

SPARCS Operations
Bureau of Health Informatics
Office of Quality and Patient Safety
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 1970
Albany, New York 12237