

Version	Date	Nature of Change	Loop (if applicable)	Changes
3.0	April 2026	Document Formatting	n/a	<p>Description: The SPARCS Data Submissions Companion Guide was updated from version 2.0 to version 3.0. This entailed a full formatting change, re-labeling of sections and appendices, simplification of language where possible, and additional guidance to address frequent submission errors.</p> <p>Rationale: To make the Companion Guide easier to use and understand and to improve data accuracy.</p>
3.0	April 2026	Data Processing	2010AA 2300	<p>Description: The SPARCS Intake system uses the following fields to identify potential duplicate inpatient claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility PFI (Loop 2010AA REF02 when REF01=1J – Facility ID Number) • Statement To and From Date (Loop 2300 DTP when DTP01=434) • Patient Control Number (Loop 2300 – CLM01) <p>Rationale: Patient control number is reported by a majority of facilities to be the most consistent unique identifier for related encounters with a given patient.</p>

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3.0	April 2026	Data Processing	2300HI	<p>Description: The minimum allowable birthweight is now 99g.</p> <p>Rationale: The previous minimum birthweight of 150g caused some valid records for extremely low birthweights to be rejected.</p>
3.0	April 2026	Instructional	All	<p>Description: No Personally Identifiable Information (PII) should be included in any X12 field that is not explicitly designated to receive it. Free text entry fields are at particular risk of being misused to record notes that include PII. PII must only be included in claims where it is required (ie in fields labeled Patient Date of Birth, Patient First/Last Name, Patient Address, etc).</p> <p>Rationale: Including PII such as patient name, address, or date of birth in any field that is not explicitly labeled to receive those details risks exposing that information and violating patient privacy.</p>

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3.0	April 2026	Instructional	2010BA 2010CA	<p>Description: X12 fields with ambiguous sex and/or gender terminology should always refer to sex assigned at birth.</p> <p>Rationale: There are currently no means in the national X12 standard to capture patient gender versus patient sex assigned at birth, and the official descriptions of the existing fields use sex and gender interchangeably. To ensure consistent data collection, the current X12 data elements should be used to capture sex assigned at birth, and the “U” code should be used to indicate that sex was not determined at birth, as in the case of intersex patients. There are no restrictions requiring particular medical procedures to match sex assigned at birth.</p>
3.0	April 2026	Instructional	2010BA 2010CA	<p>Description: The Department of Health recommends not collecting social security numbers for the purpose of SPARCS data submission.</p> <p>Rationale: Many patients prefer not to include their social security number in their medical records, and because it is only collected sporadically, it is not considered to be a useful data element for SPARCS.</p>