

Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
Quarterly Submitter Forum Summary

Date:	November 15, 2023	Location:	Webex Webinar
Start Time:	1:00 PM	End Time:	2:00 PM
Next Meeting Date:	February 13, 2024	Next Meeting Time:	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Panelists	SPARCS Program: Janet Nguyen, David Marinik Optum Government Solutions: Joe Newell Revenue Unit: Lynn Farruggia, Richard Deitz, Lola May
Agenda	• Introductions • SPARCS Injury Remediation Project Update • SPARCS Invoices and Collection Process • Questions
Summary	SPARCS Submission Operations • Summaries of Submitter Forums are available on the SPARCS website. Website Resources • Resources are available on the SPARCS website to assist facilities with data submission. SPARCS Injury Remediation Project Updates • The SPARCS Injury, Cause, and Place Code Set specifies whether a cause and/or place of injury is required on SPARCS data when an applicable injury code is reported. Information on this code set is available on the SPARCS website. • Only 2018 – 2023 discharge years are included in the remediation project, focusing on Inpatient and Emergency claim detail types. • Facilities must resubmit files with appropriate external cause and/or place of injury codes by the extended 01/31/2024 deadline. • Facilities that may require an exception or extension can refer to the Compliance Exception or Extension Request template. • Specify that request is related to injury remediation project. • Provide specific details for exception, extension, and months(s)/year. • Do not include PHI in any emails sent. • Facilities will receive email responses to exception requests • The completion report is currently being updated to resolve issues and get accurate numbers to report to facilities. SPARCS Invoices and Collection Process • The New York Public Health Law Section 2816 created SPARCS to allow for the collection and reporting of data relating to health care utilization, cost, quality, and safety, including data on health disparities. • This data is available both to hospitals and other third parties for research and analysis purposes. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) assesses and collects annual fees from Article 28 hospitals to cover the expenses for administrating SPARCS.



- The [New York State Finance Law Section 97-X](#) established the collection of fees from all general hospitals, and [NYCRR Title: Section 86-1.26](#) can be referred for further details on the collection of SPARCS fees.
- All hospitals should submit a fee on a quarterly basis no later than the 15th of February, May, August, and November of each year.
- The calculated fees are based in part on financial data submitted to DOH each year on their [Institutional Cost Report \(ICR\)](#).
- The [NYS Fiscal Year Executive Budget](#) sets the amount of SPARCS revenue collected via annual assessment fees. SPARCS fees are calculated by:
 - Prorating the fiscal year's enacted budgeted amount for the SPARCS program across the Article 28 hospitals,
 - Hospital's percentage of Total Expenses reported on recent audited ICR
 - Over all Article 28 hospitals' Total Expenses reported for the same reporting period.
- DOH recently switched the accounting system in which the Annual SPARCS Assessment's accounts receivable is maintained. During this system transfer, hospital's addresses, contact information have been updated, and open balances (carryover balance) transferred to new system.
- SPARCS Administrators will be receiving emails containing outstanding invoices from the revenue unit. Any discrepancies should be reported to DOHRevenue@Health.NY.Gov
- SPARCS Annual Assessment Fee payments are not accepted via electronic funds transfer (EFT). To correctly post payments to your account, it is vital that ACH instructions include remittance details.
 - SPARCS customer number, invoice number, and the facility's name must be provided in the text fields allowed in ACH records.
- Referral of Uncollected Debts
 - All state agencies are required to refer debts that are 100 days past due between the thresholds (\$25 – \$499, \$500 - \$999, and \$1000 or above)
- Questions on SPARCS Billing and payments can be sent to DOHRevenue@Health.NY.Gov

Questions

- The SPARCS Program will post all questions asked during the forum (and answers to those questions) to the [SPARCS Website](#).