



Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)

Quarterly Submitter Forum – March 13, 2025

Thank you for joining today's webinar!
Please mute your phones. We will begin shortly.

Agenda

- Open Discussion
- Reference Section:
 - SPARCS Support
 - Reminders
 - Q&A



Open Discussion

Open Discussion

SPARCS Intake System Update:

- The following upcoming updates will be made to the Validation Manager once the release becomes available:
 - ICD-10 codes as defined by CMS.
 - POA indicators.
 - NDC codes.
 - HCPCS/CPT.

Open Discussion

Duplicate Logic for Inpatient Records

- Reminder: Deadline is March 31st for remediation project to correct duplicate records.
- Throughout the duplicate remediation project, it has been observed that many duplicate records continue to be submitted.
- Propose adding/removing certain variables within the SPARCS duplicate logic, this will result in a decrease in the number of duplicate claims accepted into the system – enhancing data quality.

CURRENT DUP LOGIC (IP)	PROPOSED DUP LOGIC (IP)	DESCRIPTION
CLM_FROM_DT	REMOVE	Statement From Date
CLM_THRU_DT	REMOVE	Statement Through Date
FAC_TYPE_CD	REMOVE	Facility Type Code
FAC_ID	FAC_ID	Facility PFI
MED_REC_NUMB	MED_REC_NUMB	Medical Record Number
ADMIT_DT	ADMIT_DT	Admit Date
ADMIT_HR	REMOVE	Admit Hour
N/A	DISCH_DT	Discharge Date
N/A	PAT_CNTL_NUMB	Patient Control Number (Account)

Open Discussion - Future Edit Updates

Birth Weight Edit (N0010) Update:

- Current Message:
 - For newborn patients with inpatient place of service, a whole number birthweight between 150 gm and 12500 gm must be reported.
- Proposed Message:
 - For newborn patients with inpatient place of service, a whole number birthweight between 99 gm and **12000** gm must be reported.
 - Requesting feedback from facilities that submit birthweights greater than 12000 gm
 - Are birthweights reported accurate per medical record?
 - Are birthweights reported for weight at birth or weight at a later date upon follow-up?
 - Email comments to: sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov

Open Discussion - Future Edit Updates

NDC Edits to Be Deactivated

- Deactivate edits for codes not found and effective date validation.

Error Code	Description	Update
H20759	NDC Code value '%d' is too long. Must be a 5-4-2 formatted code. Spaces and hyphens are not allowed.	Active
H20760	NDC Code value '%d' is too short. Must be a 5-4-2 formatted code without the hyphens (11 digits only).	Active
H51090	NDC Code value '%d' not found in NDC database.	Disable
H51093	NDC Code '%d' is not valid based on the date provided.	Disable

Open Discussion

Payer (P) Edit Issue

- Between the dates of 10/08/2024 – 11/14/2024, there was an issue in SPARCS OTVM with all Payer (P) Edits not triggered on submitted 837R files. While all other edit types (B, H, N) were still triggering during this timeframe, data records that would have triggered P edits and normally would have been rejected, have loaded into the data tables.
- Analysis is ongoing
- Currently there is impact for all facility and claim types received during this soon.
- Examples of impacted data include the following:
 - County Codes
 - Race Codes
 - Ethnicity Codes
- Resubmission to correct Payer (P) edits will be requested in the near future



**Department
of Health**

Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)

SPARCS Compliance Updates

March 2025

SPARCS COMPLIANCE UPDATE

❖ SPARCS Regulatory Requirements for Data Submission

- Submit inpatient discharges and outpatient visits at least monthly;
- Have at least 95 percent of their total data submitted within 60 days from the end of the discharge month; and
- Have 100 percent of their total data submitted within **180 days** from the end of the discharge month.

Month of Discharge/Visit (service date)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
95% Deadline	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
100% Deadline	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun

SPARCS COMPLIANCE UPDATE

❖ SPARCS Data Compliance Protocol

▪ Compliance Reconciliation Timeline

Active Submission Period	Reconciliation Period	Out of Compliance Period				
Submit Data At Least Monthly	Reconcile Differences Between Facility Submitted Data and SPARCS Accepted Data	Monthly Warning Notice 1	Monthly Warning Notice 2	Monthly Warning Notice 3	Statement of Deficiency (SOD)	Plan of Correction (POC)
90-Day Period	90-Day Period	90-Day Period			30 Days	Will Be Required After Receipt of SOD
Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar)	Apr-Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun)	Jul-Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep)	Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec)	Jan-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	

180 Days

- Statements of Deficiency were suspended during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

SPARCS COMPLIANCE UPDATE

❖ Updated Compliance Reconciliation Timeline

Active Submission Period	Reconciliation Period	Out of Compliance Period				
Submit Data At Least Monthly	Reconcile Differences Between Facility Submitted Data and SPARCS Accepted Data	Monthly Warning Notice 1	Monthly Warning Notice 2	Monthly Warning Notice 3	Statement of Deficiency (SOD)	Plan of Correction (POC)
90-Day Period	90-Day Period	90-Day Period			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal Notice of Non-Compliance POC Required Monetary Penalties May Be Imposed Per Public Health Law § 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Submission Plan with Timeline for Completion All Data Must Be Current to Close SOD
Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar)	Apr-Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun)	Jul-Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep)	Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec)	Jan-Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
All Quarters (Jan-Dec)	Annual Reconciliation	Apr	May	Jun		

- Annual reconciliation warning notices will be sent to all facilities with any non-compliance during the previous calendar year.
 - Facilities must review data to certify that all submissions from all quarters of 2024 were completed.
- Statements of Deficiency will resume in July 2025 following annual reconciliation period.

COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS?

[SPARCS Program](#)

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Questions and Answers





Reference Section: SPARCS Support

SPARCS Support

SPARCS.submissions@health.ny.gov

- Facilities or vendors who submit data to SPARCS can email for questions regarding:
 - New facility portal set up
 - SPARCS submitter provisioning requests
 - Update SPARCS coordinators or contacts
 - SPARCS compliance questions and exception/extensions requests
 - SPARCS policy questions
- Not to be confused with SPARCS.requests@health.ny.gov for people who are requesting research data from SPARCS
- Please **DO NOT SEND PHI** in any email communications
 - Redact PHI if necessary to share screenshots or reports in emails

New SPARCS Portal

- New SPARCS Portal (<https://sparcs.optumoi.com/>):
 - Click on Help Center, then select Client Self Service Portal
 - Facilities or vendors who submit data to SPARCS should submit help desk tickets through the portal for Optum support
 - Portal training and claim testing
 - File or record rejections
 - Interpretation of edit error reports
 - Technical issues or questions
- Optum Phone Number: (866) 678-8646 option #2
- Please **DO NOT SEND PHI** in any email communications
 - Redact PHI if necessary to share screenshots or reports in emails



Reference Section: Reminders

SPARCS Reminders

SPARCS Compliance:

- Updated template for exception/extension requests
 - Office of Health Services Quality and Analytics
 - All fields must be completed
 - Exceptions can be granted only when facilities can certify all data were submitted and accepted
 - Extensions need submission plan and expected timeline for completion

SPARCS Reminders

- Data submission file should contain only data for a single PFI.
- Rules for data submission file:
 - Files submitted through SFTP must begin with FAC followed by your PFI.
 - Limit original file name to 89 characters.
 - File Size :
 - 5MB Limits if submitting directly on the portal.
- Recommendations for data submission file:
 - Less than 10MB recommended if submitting through SFTP.
 - Submission Timing Recommendations :
 - Avoid submitting files between 12:00AM – 1:00AM EST.
 - Do not submit multiple large files simultaneously.



Thank you!

For more information, contact sparcs.submissions@health.ny.gov