

Five things you need to know about SPARCS

The Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System is a comprehensive, all-payer data reporting system that New York state uses to collect, analyze and disseminate data about healthcare services.

What data do I need to submit to SPARCS?

As a healthcare provider, submitting SPARCS data is crucial to ensuring that your organization complies with state regulations. To successfully meet SPARCS data submission requirements, you must include five key components:

1

Patient demographics

This includes information such as the patient's name, date of birth and gender. This information identifies the patient and ensures their records are properly linked to their healthcare provider.

2

Clinical data

This includes information about the services provided to the patient, such as the date, time and type of service, and the provider who delivered it. This information describes the duration, providers and transitions of care during an encounter.

3

Diagnosis codes

To properly track the care provided to patients, it is critical to include diagnosis codes in the SPARCS data submission. These codes, which are based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) system, provide a standardized way of identifying a patient's medical condition.

4

Procedure codes

In addition to diagnosis codes, SPARCS requires ICD-10 and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes identifying the medical procedures a patient has received.

5

Payment information

Finally, the SPARCS data submission must include information about how the patient was billed for the services they received. This includes the amount billed and the type of payment (e.g., private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid).

But why do we have to submit SPARCS data?

Ensuring your organization follows state regulations should be a priority. Here are five things you should know about SPARCS and why your organization should be submitting:

1 It's the law.

In New York state, all Article 28-licensed hospitals and hospital extension clinics and diagnostic and treatment centers certified to provide ambulatory surgery services are required to submit inpatient and outpatient data to SPARCS.

2 It's time-sensitive.

Data must be submitted monthly. Facilities must submit 95% of their data within 60 days following the end of the month of a patient's discharge/visit, and 100% is due 180 days following.

3 It's the only up-to-date view of your caseload.

SPARCS data submissions are the only true indicator of the number of cases and the amount of work your facility is doing. It's New York state's only universal mechanism for gauging facilities' monthly workload and making predictions, based on what is being submitted from every health entity in the state.

4 It's visible to the public.

Your compliance record is available to the public on the [NYSDOH website](#).

5 It's needed for expansion.

Are you looking to expand your practice? Not if you are delinquent on SPARCS submissions! NYSDOH may not approve your Certificate of Need if any of your centers owe SPARCS data.

Organizations that don't submit SPARCS data are not in compliance with the law and could be subject to penalties. **If your organization is struggling to stay compliant with SPARCS submissions, DataGen can help.**

Stay SPARCS compliant with help from UIS Data Systems™ from DataGen

[UDS is the premiere SPARCS data correction platform](#), used by more than 120 hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to edit and accurately report clinical data. It saves time and ensures compliance by automating corrections and submitting complete SPARCS data to NYSDOH.

[Contact us to learn more.](#)