



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

800 North Pearl Street, Room 231
12204

Albany, New York

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 8, 2005

Dear Hospital Administrator:

The "Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century" will be using SPARCS inpatient data for the years 2000-2004 in conducting a clinical evaluation analysis in support of the Commission's decision making processes. The discussion of this analysis will begin at the November 9th meeting of the Commission.

As you are aware, hospitals are obligated to submit to SPARCS 95% of all inpatient discharges within 60 days and 100% of discharges by June 30th of the following year (section 86-1.3 of Title 10 of the Public Health Law¹).

The production of the SPARCS analysis files is completed during the first five working days of the month. Thus, all submissions/corrections need to be included in the October data file to be used in support of the Commission's November meeting. Due to the central role of the 2000-2004 SPARCS data in the Commission's efforts, it is essential that all corrections to SPARCS data from 2000-2004 be submitted by **September 30, 2005**.

To assist you with any discrepancies in your SPARCS data, a comparison of your SPARCS and ICR for the years 2000 – 2003 was either sent to you by your Association (HANYS or GNYHA), or is available from your Association. If you are not a member of either of these organizations, you can contact your rate analyst in the Bureau of Primary and Acute Care Reimbursement.

If you have any questions on your ICR report data you can contact your rate analyst in the Bureau of Primary and Acute Care Reimbursement at (518) 474- 3267.

¹ **86-1.3 Financial and statistical data required.** (f) Data required to be filed with the department pursuant to section 400.18(b) and (c) of this Title shall be submitted according to the specified format for at least 95 percent of all discharged patients within 60 days from the end of the month of patient billing and for at least 100 percent of all patients discharged during the hospital's twelve-month fiscal reporting period within 180 days from the end of the hospital's fiscal year reporting period. Where the 95 or 100 percent criteria are not met for a given quarter, the provisions of subdivision (c) of this section shall apply, except where the facility demonstrates that the delay in submission of the data is beyond its control.

If you have any questions regarding your SPARCS data, please contact myself or Jim Feuerbach in the SPARCS Administrative Unit at (518) 473-8144.

It is in your best interest to investigate and correct any discrepancies in your SPARCS data to avoid future problems caused by incomplete or inaccurate submissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura K. Dellehunt".

Laura K. Dellehunt
Director
SPARCS Administrative Unit

cc: SPARCS Representative