

# THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

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April 16, 2008 (By E-mail)

To: STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Primary and Backup Data File Contacts

Earlier today, all Primary Data File Contacts were copied on an email to all STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Surgeon Representatives regarding the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database's selection as a CMS Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Registry Test site. This email is to follow up with some important operational details. The STS will submit PQRI data to CMS for participating surgeons on July 1, 2008 until at least mid-year 2009. Please note that STS will be submitting surgeon-specific data **only** with individual surgeon written consent. *Please contact each individual surgeon at your site to determine if they have signed, or intend to sign, a consent to participate in the PQRI Registry Test.*

Because PQRI is currently only for Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) claims, STS will be utilizing one of the custom fields in data specifications version 2.61 to identify such cases. **It will be necessary to complete Custom Text Field 1, STS data specifications version 2.61, Seq.#3450 for each consenting surgeon's Medicare patients** (Note: Payor Government Health Insurance – Medicare, Seq.#248 = Yes) with surgery dates on or after January 1, 2008. **Custom Text Field 1, Seq.#3450 (in addition to Surgeon NPI, Seq.#1221 and TIN, Seq.#1222) must be submitted beginning with the 2008 second harvest in May 2008.**

## **Custom Text Field 1; Seq.# 3450**

(will be known as “**Medicare FFS**” in supporting documentation/FAQ)

Data Definition: Indicate if the patient is a Medicare FFS patient.

Valid values: Yes; No

## **FAQ**

Patients' Medicare FFS information may be obtained from the surgeon's office billing department. "Are the claims for physician fee schedule services for this patient billed to the Medicare Carrier or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor?" is the question to have answered. A key point of contact for this information would be the surgeon's office manager. Methods to obtain from office manager might include, but are not limited to: notification of Medicare FFS patients when patient enters the hospital; weekly report from office manager of surgeon's Medicare FFS patients.

Please begin entering this data immediately. If you have trouble accessing this field in your software, please contact your software vendor. Questions related to how to answer this field should be submitted via the Clinical Question Submission Form located on the Data Managers section of the STS Web site located under “Clinical Support”.