

THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

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April 16, 2008 (by E-mail)

To: STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Surgeon Representatives
Cc: STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Primary Date File Contacts

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is testing the potential of registries to submit data directly for its Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACDB) has been selected as a PQRI Registry Test site. Only surgeons participating in the 2008 CMS PQRI through claims submissions are eligible to participate in the PQRI Registry Test. STS data will be submitted **only** with individual surgeon written consent.

The PQRI Registry Test will examine the agreement between registry clinical data with CMS claims data submitted for PQRI. Testing will begin on or around July 1, 2008, will continue for one year, and will include submission of STS ACDB v.2.61 data with surgical dates of January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 for:

- Surgeon's National Provider Identifier (NPI), Sequence number 1221
- Taxpayer Identification Number, Sequence number 1222
- PQRI measures:
 - #43, Use of Internal Mammary Artery IMA in isolated CABG, Sequence number 1560
 - #44, Pre-Operative Beta-Blocker in Patients with Isolated CABG, Sequence number 890
 - #45, Perioperative Care: Discontinuation of Prophylactic Antibiotics for cardiac procedures, Sequence number 1347

The importance of participating in PQRI can not be stressed enough. Should the PQRI Registry Test confirm that registry clinical data reported agree with CMS claims data, STS may be allowed to submit data directly to CMS in the future on your behalf thereby minimizing the burden on your office of submitting PQRI data to CMS.

We urge you to consider participating in this PQRI Registry Test. Please date, sign and include your Participant ID Number on the attached STS National Database Data Sharing Consent/Release Form, and return it to Gerry Tarafa, STS Database Operations Administrator either by fax to 312.202.5801 or mail to STS, 633 N. Saint Clair St., Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611-3658. **Consents must be received no later than June 20, 2008.**

Should you have questions regarding the implementation of this PQRI Registry Test, please feel free to contact Linda S. Breen, STS Senior Manager, Quality & Patient Safety via email at lbreen@sts.org.

Sincerely,

David M. Shahian

David M. Shahian, MD

Chair, Adult Cardiac Surgery Database Task Force

Fred H. Edwards

Fred H. Edwards, MD

Chair, Workforce on National Databases