October 18, 2019 ACSD Pre-AQO Webinar Q&A

Question	Answer
Will this presentation be available after?	Yes, we will post a link to this presentation on the STS National Database page of our website by next Tuesday. https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-webinars
Don't upgrade unless you are really ready!	Appreciate your comment. We started the upgrade process for version 4 in March 2018. We've made some significant changes and I think we are ready to make this a better version for you, so when you're abstracting, it flows better. We'll get more into this in subsequent webinars.
Are you saying new version in July?	Yes, July 2020.
Why do you always do upgrades mid-year? For reporting purposes, it makes it very difficult to have to marry two different versions when reporting a full year of data.	We definitely recognize this and understand the difficulty when we do things mid-year. This year we were intending to do the version upgrade in January, but due to our transition of the data warehouse, there are a lot of things going on at the same time, and to try to mitigate any errors with the version upgrade, we decided we would have to go live in July. The next version, I can almost guarantee, will not be in July. It will be a January 2023 update.
Webinars as soon as possible please!	Looks like we'll start those in January for the upgrade, November for our transition to IQVIA.
Is the old dashboard not updated anymore and STS will move to IQVIA for future dashboard data?	The STS dashboard currently hosted by DCRI will still be updated through December 31, 2019, and new dashboard will go live on January 1.
Will we be able to enter our data directly into your website and work without a third party vendor?	Starting January 1, you will still need a third-party vendor. For direct data submission through IQVIA's website, we are aiming for mid-year when we go live with the new version. One important clarification - The current approach is either submission through your vendor or direct data entry, not both.
For IQVIA, if we are familiar with GWTG CAD, should we be expecting a similar experience? Vendor to IQVIA via web based submissions and then Reports/Dash on IQVIA managed sites?	This is referencing the Get with the Guidelines Program for another client. The technology stack that IQVIA is implementing for STS is a completely separate cloud stack or platform. They're in their own dedicated space. In terms of, is the experience similar? I'm not immediately familiar with the details of that flow, but from a higher conceptual standpoint, yes. There's an uploader user interface where you as data managers will take the DAT files you have prepared, then drag and drop those into the uploader user

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	interface. They will process into the system. You'll get a data quality report to see what needs to be addressed in your data. There is also a missingness report that's part of that. So from a broad level, yes, but there are many specific things that we have been working with the STS team on customizing the specific requirements for this workflow.
The earlier we have the specs for the new version, the better. Would it be possible to have the specs at AQO or prior?	The updated draft data collection form in both tracked and clean formats will be provided at AQO. The version 2.9 form will also be provided. The new data specs will not be provided to the vendors until late December or early January, so they will have 6 months to build it.
Does IQVIA replace ARMUS?	Your vendors are not going away. ARMUS will submit data on your behalf to IQVIA.
Do we need to do anything with software or use Google Chrome for the functionality to perform at its highest?	We support a number of different browsers and versions. That's part of our handout materials that we will distribute at AQO. We will make the materials available to everyone, so you will get them even if you don't attend AQO. Chrome is one of the supported browsers.
Will IQVIA interface with EPIC EMR in any way to facilitate automation to some degree?	Good question. It is a pretty big question because there's a lot of different things that go into this. I know there are some guidelines from STS regarding what can and can't be automated so first and foremost, we will align with whatever the STS policy is. Thinking past that, do we have the opportunity to explore automation of data? Yes, but it is not part of our initial phase 1, 2, or 3 work. We have done this with other clients, and we have experience in this area. There is certainly a lot of opportunity based on all the things happening with interoperability and the healthcare landscape, but we want to walk before we run.
What do you mean "near" real-time data?	As you submit data going in, it will not be updated immediately, but it will be updated nightly, so you will see it the next morning. If you do not submit data for two weeks, it will not be updated. So it updates as often as you submit data. Real time is instantaneous whereas near real time can have a delay of ten minutes up to a day (24 hours).

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Where is the place for vendor software? Are we expected to terminate those contracts? Is there benefit to keeping vendor software?	You will keep your vendor software, and the benefit is that you will still be able to run reports through your vendor software. Another piece is we're really looking to engage with the vendors, as they have an important role of aggregating the data across multiple clinical sites. We're not trying to come in and replace that. We are trying to provide many different pathways to get data into the system. The expectation is that you keep working with your vendor and the experience should be from a technical standpoint the same as what you have today, and then we will work with you on any workflow adjustments that might happen in terms of working with your DQR.
Is IQVIA going to have an Epic Tool similar to what they have with NSQIP where we can upload cases with prepopulated data points such as labs, admission date, discharge date, etc.?	Same answer as previous. Not with the initial release.
Does the database schema (design) change on Society's new data warehouse?	Yes, and no. The schema that you all submit data in will not change. How the data is stored in the data warehouse is different, and that's all part of our registry configuration process.
Can we have this presentation emailed to us? I'll be in NOLA, and would like to share with my Director before I leave.	These will be posted online within the STS National Database section, so your director will be able to access it there. You'll receive an email from us when it's posted. https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-webinars
I was only aware of this webinar due to a Facebook feed - are you sending email reminders for these?	Yes, we did send emails out about this including a reminder earlier today. Would you please send me an email, dsteck@sts.org and I can check with our marketing team to make sure your email address was on the list.
Will our surgeons be able to access the dashboard and view their own data?	The surgeons will be able to access the dashboard and view the site's data. They will be able to see their surgeon-specific report if they opted into the multi-procedure surgeon-level composite, and we're working on developing functionality where they can sort the site data by NPI, but it won't be available in the initial phases.
Will the vendors be ready in January for this change?	The hope is yes; the vendors will be ready. We are engaging with the vendors and IQVIA has participated in a few vendor calls. We have a face to face

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	meeting with them next week. We have plans to share out samples to do pretesting prior to go-live. This may have been mentioned earlier, but the goal of this is to not change the existing experience. Another question we received - What about my IT security group? They need to understand if we are submitting to a new endpoint. They need to know details about the endpoint, so they can conduct their assessment/review. This is another piece we are working on, and we will share out information on that.
when will a demo be given to those who cannot go to AQO	Please be sure to join the monthly webinars starting in November. They will take place the first Wednesday of the month at 2 pm CT. We will conduct demos, and you will have ample time to ask questions. The webinars and Q&A will also be posted on line.
Is there an opportunity to be an early adopter/beta tester?	Yes, we would love to have your input. We have a running list of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact STS at STSDB@sts.org
Can you please discuss costs	There are no changes in participation fees. The costs for ACSD 2020 have been posted online at https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/become-sts-national-database-participant . The dashboard upgrade is something in which STS has invested to improve the participant experience.
On the Data Manger Site, will there be any way for us to ask questions to IQVIA, or a link posted that we can communicate with them if need be?	Post go-live, we will have 24/7 support available. There will be email and phone support. There will be a workflow, and we will provide information and training on how to get your questions answered. In terms of how to get access to us prior to go-live, we are working with STS, so just work through the way you would today, I think, with STS and we'll get your questions answered. During AQO, you can use the AQO app. AQO is a great chance to engage with us if you're attending.
Will you allow direct submissions from certified vendor software directly to the new IQIVA system?	It's been our philosophy that the participants, the data managers, should be submitting the data files, and they should be the ones looking at the DQRs and resubmit if necessary. We will continue to discourage having the submissions come from the software vendors.
Will continuing education credits be available for the webinars?	At this time, we will not be offering continuing education credits.

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Will IRP be effective on 1/1/20 for ACS? If yes, where can I find additional information about IRP?	We'll have information at AQO. IQVIA is giving four talks, one for each breakout session and one during the general sessions. Slides will likely be shared. You'll see a lot more information in the scheduled webinars we have. We'll do training and walk through specifics. More to come.
How many concurrent users can be using or pulling data from IQVIA for each participating facility?	No limit on how many people from each site could have access to the dashboard.
Do you mean new version 4.3 indicate the STS adult Cardiac registry? How do you define the version of STS Adult Cardiac registry? We current have STS v2.9 adult cardiac?	This will be version 4.20 The version number for each database that is upgraded with IQVIA will have a different structure than what was used in the past in database upgrades with DCRI. ACSD will start with 4, GTSD will start with 5, CHSD will start with 6. The ".20" indicates the year in which the version was effective.
Will the new version dashboard be available to more than just one person at each site?	Yes, please see previous response.
When can we expect the specs for 7/1/20 ACS?	Previously addressed. For those who do not attend AQO, the data collection forms will be posted online in late October.
In general, would like to have more timely responses to clinical questions please	Since Melinda has taken over the FAQ mailbox, the questions have been answered rather quickly. We have increased our calls with surgeon leaders to twice monthly. That being said, sometimes it can take up to 30 days to answer some of those questions, but we are trying our best to get you responses. If the questions are tricky, sometimes they require additional discussions with surgeons.
I have a vendor, will I submit data to DCRI or to IQVIA	You will submit data for Harvest 4 ending November 22 to DCRI. The harvest will then close and open for Harvest 1 2020 which is data through December 31, 2019 to IQVIA. In November and December, we will help sites with the transition (e.g., where to submit the data, using the new data uploader, reviewing the new DQR, etc.).
Will this move help us to have real time data for our CTS teams?	You will have near real-time data as previously addressed.
can you share the link where this webinar will be posted	We will share it after the webinar.

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I have not heard about webinars from Wednesday and Thursday? What was the content of these webinars and why wasn't this shared with others?	Each of these webinars are database component-specific. CHSD was on Thursday, GTSD was on Wednesday, and ACSD is today. The information is posted online. If you are just with Adult, you received emails on the last three Fridays and today.
Will we be submitting data to IQVIA and DCRI both with each harvest or will it be a single submission?	It will be a single submission beginning in January just to IQVIA.
I am in New York, which had a database years before the STS. We currently use a STS recommended vendor, where we only answer a question once & it goes to both databases. Are you working with the individual states to provide this via the new product??	We believe that if you are staying with your current vendor, you can continue your process of submitting data to the STS as well as to your state.
Please shows "errors" and "inconsistencies" as we are abstracting so working DQR rept. Isn't so onerous. MANY could be done "real time". thx	This is part of one of the improvements. You will be able to click on a record and be able to see where the error is and where to fix it.
Will the data warehouse be able to create graphs?	Yes, that is part of our dashboard reports.
Greetings! Is it possible to do a direct link for specs on each element, e.g. click on the element number rather than pulling up the training manual? It would certainly decrease abstraction burden. Thank you!	We believe this is something a few vendors offer. If you hover over the element, the definition comes up. However, the training manual is still useful due to monthly changes that are being made to the manual.
Totally agree that mid-year upgrade is very default to run reports	We understand and will do our best to make sure the next upgrade in 2023 goes live in January.
Is a web based (browser) or software based platform?	The IQVIA solution is web-based, cloud-based and does not require any local software installation.
How long will the old version be running so sites not up-to-date can get caught up?	Version 2.9 will be up until June 30, 2020, and version 4.2 will go live July 1. You will still be able to resubmit data on older records up to two versions back.
If we resubmit data with the new platform, can it be applied to the appropriate quarter star ratings?	No because the star ratings are calculated using the data in the database at that time. However, if you update your data and they fall within the time window for the new star ratings, the updated data would be included in the calculation of the new star ratings.
Will the dashboard include multiple morbidities?	Please clarify your question.

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Will there be different access given to each data manager?	There will be role-based access. Different views and access is provided for surgeons and for data managers.
what is the fee to use the IQVIA direct data entry	There will not be a fee, but please note direct data entry will not be available for the January 1 go-live.
As new data abstractor is there any prerecorded webinar to kind of guide me through Adult cardiac data entry just to foolproof my abstraction	Staff would be happy to schedule a call with you to show you where all the resources are located. Please contact Carole at ckrohn@sts.org .
Is there any way the Data Manager Meeting can cost a bit less? The fee was rather steep, considering it is in NOLA and it requires Air Fare. NCDR does not charge a fee for their meetings.	NCDR built the meeting fee into their participation fees. We have not done that, but it is something we can discuss for 2021. The 2020 AQO meeting will be priced the way it is now.
We currently link this data with our EMR data in order to do more complex reporting. If we choose not to use a 3rd party vendor, Will there be an "Extract all data option?" that will allow us to download data into our data warehouse	Not with go-live, but we do have the capability through a specific report called the Data Download Report (DDR) where it essentially provides that. It gives you a view on the data dump. It is not a raw SQL database export. The DDR is not available at initial release.
Will the new platform have the same capabilities for creating reports and exporting data as current third party vendors?	The PDFs are going away, but you will be able to use the tools in the dashboard to create similar PDF reports. Report queries done through your vendor software will not change. There are a lot of vendor software capabilities that vary across the different vendors. The ability to view the data in the IQVIA platform will not be one-to-one with all those.
Will all centers be using the IQVIA by July, or just a few centers as a piolet project?	IQVIA is becoming the data warehouse January 1, 2020. DCRI will no longer be the data warehouse. The July 1 date pertains to the ACSD version upgrade.
With the new upgrade, could you please add "not documented" or "not applicable" options to all data elements to decrease the amount of unnecessary data inconsistencies that are returned on the DQRs when fields are left blank?	We tried to add these options on fields where you have to select an option. For free text fields (i.e., you have to enter a value), we were unable to add a different type of field. For those fields in which you have to enter a value, we will work with IQVIA to ensure those fields do not show up on your DQR as missing.
I am a new data manager for our site, how can I get an access to the current STS dashboard? Thanks	Please send Carole an email at ckrohn@sts.org , and she will connect you with someone at DCRI. Currently only primary data contacts have access.
Should we anticipate a 3-day turn-around for DQRs from IQVIA	DQRs will typically be provided within minutes of data submission. If your file is exceptionally large, it will take longer. We will provide more guidance

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	ahead of go-live. We recommend starting small when you submit your first file.
Can vendors get access to the data form that will be shared at AQO?	Yes, we are happy to share it. We are working on developing another form that will be helpful to vendors, as it will show what has been removed and added in Excel format.
Will there be increases in annual dues for STS participation due to these enhancements?	No, there will not be an increase in fees.
For the STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database, will you have a field test for the Aorta and Aortic Root Procedures section, as the current format is awkward.	We made significant changes to the parent-child relationships within these sections including the aortic valve section. We think the format will flow much better. It was beta tested at 10-12 sites, and we received positive feedback.
What dashboard were you speaking of earlier that we presently have?	There's a dashboard that is run by DCRI to which the primary contact and surgeons have access. Please contact Carole with questions.
Some data points such as demographics get populated directly into 3rd vender software. Will IQVIA be able to do that when fully functional?	Currently the data elements that may be electronically abstracted will remain, and our Informatics Task Force (which participated in all ACSD spec upgrade calls) is identifying others that can be electronically abstracted. The functionality must also be in place between the EHR and the vendor, so we will need to work with the vendors on that.
Who will be certifying vendor software?	IQVIA.
Will we have more real-time reports? Rather than the 6-8month lag time? Like the NCDR TVT registry?	That is our goal, but with new methodology, new processes, and bidirectional data flow, there may be some delays early on as we get used to our new ebb and flow of data.
I am curious why you needed to change the warehouse? Where does the data sit once it's submitted in the IQVIA platform? It seems the data will be in 2 places now - duke (for analytics) and the "cloud".	The data will live in the IQVIA Registry Platform(IRP) in databases hosted on IQVIA AWS servers. This platform is being provided to STS as a service. A bi-directional exchange is being setup with DCRI for each of the harvests.
Will my surgeons and administrators also be able access IQVIA	Yes.
I am confused--will we still need a 3rd party vendor or will there be an option at some point next year to no longer use a 3rd party vendor?	There will be an option to not use a third-party vendor. It will likely be available in July with the version upgrade.

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Will the third party vendor submission costs change? If we direct input will that cost be eliminated?	STS does not control the vendors' costs. If you decide to do direct entry, there will be no cost.
If we stick with a vendor, will we still have access to the new dashboard?	Yes.
Support calls to IQVIA in the past seem to be routed to other countries. Sometimes making interactions difficult to understand. Where is support located?	Good question. IQVIA will follow up on this question later, as they want to answer it correctly. There is a tiered support system, and that part of how this will be set up.
Will participants be able to do custom queries against our data once it's in IQVIA?	You will be able to use filters and drill drown on your data in the dashboard. You will still need your vendor software to run queries.
Will we have multi-site data access from IQVIA?	If you are a data manager for multiple database participants, you will have access to whatever sites for which you are listed as the primary data file contact.
What is the anticipated turnaround time for a DQR once a harvest is uploaded?	Near real-time, meaning that it will be available anywhere from a few minutes after submission to up to a day.
It seems like we will have more steps?	No. The process on the site's end does not change. It is just a different uploader.
Will we still have to submit data to DCRI for the final submission?	No. Once your data goes to IQVIA, when the harvest closes, IQVIA will package the data up and send it to DCRI for analysis. Once the analysis is completed, IQVIA will display your data on your dashboard.
Will the DQR's be housed in a secure website like with DCRI or will they be sent via email to the data manager and contacts?	The DQRs will be housed on your dashboard. You may also download them as a PDF.
Carole, we still haven't received our H2 harvest analysis is this due to warehouse transition, general delay....? Or is this our site specific problem?	You should have received these reports at the end of July or early August. Reports for data submission 3 are due out at the end of October. If you are missing harvest 2, please contact me at ckrohn@sts.org.
Are the Surgeons who participate in the STS aware of these changes? Will they have access to use IQVIA or is it up to us to share it?	The surgeons will have access, and STS has shared this information in the surgeons' newsletter and on the website. We have been trying to reach folks using all different mediums. If your surgeons have questions, please have them reach out to STS staff.

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Can you provide browser version(s) including IE, Chrome, etc. ... to utilize the new upload 'tool'? thx	Yes, we will include this information in the FAQ sheets that are being developed. They will be distributed at AQO and posted online.
How often will IQVIA perform updates and when will the updates be performed?	We are going live in January and we have two subsequent phases planned, and we will work with STS to determine when the releases of those phases will happen. It depends on a number of different factors. We will work with STS on this to ensure there are minimal disruptions to you.
I'm sorry can you clarify what the physicians will be able to see? They can see their data but not the site data?	We can cover this in the November and December dashboard demos. All surgeons will be able to see their site level data.
Will the cardiovascular APRN that works with the surgeon be able to see the data, she is our cardiac surgery manager	She would have access to see the data as long as she is listed in your account as having a role for your site for the STS data. More information to come on this.
Will these webinars come with meeting invites? The Weds 14:00 times?	We will see if we can share the webinars as calendar invites. STS Marketing will send it out similar to how they sent out notifications for this webinar. If you register, you may receive a link that will generate a calendar invite.
Just to clarify (re: earlier schema questions from another user), our current vendor export files are expected to be acceptable in January with the change over?	Correct. IQVIA is working with the vendors to ensure we will be able to accept the files from the vendors in January. One thing to mention is that you may see more validation rules kick off, as we have been configuring checks and looking at the details, so there may be more error messages that come back that need to be corrected in the file you submit. There's no expectation or requirement that you or your vendor need to change the format of the file being submitted.
Wait what Monthly webinar is posting in Nov? How is that different from what is starting in January?	The monthly webinars will start in November, and the first webinar will focus on IQVIA to help everyone with the transition. In January, we will have additional webinars regarding the version upgrade.
Is the DQR process quicker if you use the STS data collection tool?	We do not have an STS data collection tool. The direct data entry feature will be available in July. The DQR works with the file upload. The direct data entry is more real-time validation.
Will analysts from large hospital systems be able to access each one of their system's hospitals data?	We can help you design an umbrella report for all of your hospitals. Please contact me at ckrohn@sts.org and I will connect you with Susan Becker who oversees that area.

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What's the difference between the IQVIA launch on 1/1/2020 and the 4.20 upgrade on 7/1/2020?	The IQVIA launch is a transition of our entire data warehouse. That is for all of the databases except Intermacs. The 4.2 upgrade on July 1 is the ACSD version upgrade.
Will the questions and answers here be available to view?	Yes, we will have to go through and type up the answers. We will post them after AQO.
There will be NO involvement of DCRI at all anymore?	DCRI will still be the STS National Database's analytic center.
Will the new version be available in a word document?	Yes, all documents available for 2.9 will be available for the version upgrade.
Clarify the files upload means directly pull the data from HIS system and upload to STS site for data submission.	No. This is a push, so it is how you operate today. You upload the file to the IQVIA website uploader.
Can you give us any hints on which data elements will be dropped in the new version? 30% decrease is quite a bit.	The granularity of the database probably will not change as much as you're thinking. However, the way in which we collect the data will change. For example, some of the fields have gone from single field to multiple select fields.
Can STS do monthly webinars in the future for announcements/updates and abstraction Q&A like the ACC does for each of their registries?	Yes, that's the plan. We will be doing monthly webinars. For adult cardiac, first Wednesday of the month at 2 pm CT starting in November.
Can you submit past data to IQUVIA?	Yes, but only supporting current version and immediate past version.
Will the real-time data that is refreshed daily be risk adjusted?	No, the risk adjusted data will be updated quarterly.
Will any change occur to our STS National Reports from this?	The PDF report is going away. You will still receive star ratings and other data via the dashboard. You will also be able to export the data to PDFs or for use in PPT presentations. For your previous PDF reports, we encourage you to go to the report module at DCRI (which will be available through the end of December) and download all of those. Nothing is going to be lost, but those historical reports going back to the 90s will be stored in a format that will not be readily accessible to you. You'll have to do a data request to get that.
Will IQVIA also receive data for TVT and LAAO?	You will still use NCDR for those registries.
How do we get people added to this list (for these webinars)? I have a Regional contact that would like to be added.	Please share the webinar link with your regional contact. https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-webinars

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When submitting STS data close to end of harvest, will DQ/ clean up reports arrive in a more timely matter?	Yes, you should have those pretty quickly. No longer than 72 hours.
Will any historic data (DCRI) be carried over in the IQVIA dashboard? Are the IQVIA reports customizable?	Two versions will be carried over into the IQVIA dashboard - 2.9 and 2.81. You will be able to use filters, drill down on data, export it for presentations, etc. Querying will be limited at this time.
Will the harvest submission dates be the same with the same star and NQF info?	We are working with IQVIA now on the 2020 harvest close dates. They will be similar to what they are now. We just haven't nailed them down yet. You will still receive two star ratings reports.
Can we drill down data to patient level from the Dashboard?	Yes, you will be able to click on a field, get all the way down to the patient level, open the record id, which you can use to pull up the record on the vendor software.
How will IQVIA report/dashboards differ from the STS/Duke reports?	Stay tuned for more on that. There will be dashboard demos during the November and December webinars.
I didn't receive any notifications about this meeting, I just happened on to it, luckily. Who do I contact to see if STS has my correct email? Thanks!	Please email Carole at ckrohn@sts.org to determine whether you are listed as the primary or backup data contact. Some sites mark STS emails as spam or blocks them, so the sites may need to whitelist STSDB@sts.org . We can work together to resolve this.
With version 4.20, what data elements are going away?	I will share that with you at AQO and after.
if you can't offer the hover feature, will each field have the field ID # listed?	It depends on how your vendors build the software. IQVIA will confirm whether they will have the hover feature available which will link to the training manual.
Will notifications regarding updates/maintenance for IQVIA be provided in advance notice? It's frustrating with software platforms having maintenance and not being aware - until you go to utilize it. Just curious.	Yes, that is all part of our release process. We will work with STS to determine the appropriate communication channels to use. We try to do upgrades at night or on weekends, so they are not disruptive to a majority of users.
I've heard both "4.3" and "4.2" used on this call to describe the new adult version. Which is it?	It is version 4.20.

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Is there ability to have a healthcare system view of all facilities within the healthcare system?	Please email Carole at ckrohn@sts.org , who will connect you with the staff member who oversees umbrella reports. This is something we are also looking at for dashboard access.
Who will authorize the access to the Dashboard? Will it be the current Data Manager?	The role each person has at your site will determine who has access to the dashboard. Whoever provides to us the participant contact form is the person who will have control. Please update your participant contact forms at https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-forms. We will allow more than just a primary and backup as we move over to an in-house participant database.
Does the system also closes during submission time?	Yes, the IQVIA system will close for a short period of time as the data is moved over into analysis. The downtime is TBD.
only 1 day of content for adult STS	It is about the same number of hours of content as in past years. It is just all in one day as opposed to splitting the hours across two days.
Just an FYI....I did not personally receive any notification emails re: the webinars. I was aware only because someone in our corporate office forwarded an email that she received.	Please reach out to Carole at ckrohn@sts.org and we can check to see that you are listed as a data contact for your site. One other thing is if emails are being blocked, we encourage you to look on our website. All announcements and newsletters are posted there. Also, please whitelist stsdb@sts.org as a sender through your IT department.
If we have available training hours to us that have already been paid for can we use those hours for training for this?	We are unclear about what this means. Please clarify through our Q&A box.
Has 2020 AQO site been announced? Care to share?	We will be sure to share after AQO. It's Rhode Island!!!
General question, last year you all offered the AOQ online 1-2-3 months later and that was a god send. Why not again this year?	This year we moved away from AQO online because we did not receive the response and feedback that we were expecting last year. This year, we will be posting slide decks we feel will be helpful (most of them). We anticipate they will be posted within a few weeks.
If we have a vendor, will we still have the same capability as direct data entry?	Direct data entry is not meant to allow for custom fields and queries you do with your vendors. If you require that, direct data entry would not be a good option for you.

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Question	Answer
Also a new data abstractor and another one starting Monday, I would also be interested in webinars and guidance with abstraction, submission, and current dashboard access. As of right now the only way I know how to get data is with the quarterly harvest reports which are usually delayed.	We will definitely be having new data manager meetings, and we are happy to schedule a call to walk you through some abstraction tips and resources. Please send Carole at ckrohn@sts.org an email if interested.
So DCRI is going away completely? Earlier I thought you said they still had some sort of Warehouse role....older data you mean?	DCRI will still be the STS National Database's analytic center.
For the STS AQO interactive session (IO) - is there an app to download, or do we have to use the website provided?	There is no app to download. Please use www.stsaqo.cnf.io.
Is there a document outlining and summarizing these changes to IQVIA as well as vs 4.3?	We will provide more information on FAQs, and we will be providing as much information as possible during the transition and after. The version 4.2 documentation will be posted online after AQO.
Is there a place on the IQVIA website on which we can follow along on the progress of the transition?	There is nothing on the IQVIA website, but STS and IQVIA are working together to create materials for the STS website.
Will there be a minimum number of cases that must be submitted, impacting small volume facilities where we have to upload more than 1 quarter at a time?	There are no minimum cases to be submitted. You just have to meet the procedure-specific volume requirements to receive benchmarked data. Information is in the participant feedback reports.
Is it possible to have multiple primary data contacts?	The primary and backup data contacts have similar roles. We always send communications to both. Please contact Carole at ckrohn@sts.org if you require additional assistance.
For those of us who have to leave, would you please let us know now where we can find this conversation on the STS website??	The link is posted in the chat box. https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-webinars
Will there be a demo of the new dashboard at AQO?	Yes, there will be a limited demo, as it is still being developed.
Will we be able to make corrections and resubmit as often as necessary, like we can currently, within the submission window?	Yes. We are encouraging users to submit early and often.
who will have access to the dashboard with IQVIA	All data managers and surgeons. Please tell us who needs access and then those folks will need to get usernames and password. The roles will be

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Question	Answer
	defined based on their needs (e.g., view only or those who will need to upload data).
When will we get a complete list of the final certified vendor software?	The certified vendor list is updated on the STS website, as the vendors pass certification.
Can we get a copy of these slides?	The presentation recording will be posted on the STS website. If you would like the slides, please contact Carole at ckrohn@sts.org .
what is the rationale for using IQVIA since DCRI is still involved	DCRI has been a long-time partner and is very strong in the analytics space. We are looking for some more advanced technology in terms of dashboard reporting and interoperability. We did an RFP to see what else is out there, and we were very impressed with the IQVIA experience and platform. We felt it would be a good way to modernize the database without losing the strength of and connection to DCRI who does our analytics and has been involved in all our risk model development since the database began.
Will new contracts be required since all prior STS contracts do not include any BA/DU agreements with IQUIVA?	Your BAA/DUA is with STS, and STS has a sub-BAA/DUA with our data warehouse, which will be IQVIA. We have one with DCRI since your data will be going there as well. We also have one with our auditors. Long story short, you do not need to update your contracts.
Will harvest dates change?	2020 harvest dates have not been posted yet. All harvest for all three databases will open on January 1 with IQVIA. We are anticipating the harvest close will be similar to last year.
Will we have preview of reports that will be available through IQVIA before we make decision to stay or leave our 3rd party vendor?	The report access will be the same. We are not trying to replace the current vendor functionality, and we recognize the vendors have a variety of different analytics, reports, and views of the data they provide. We are providing direct data entry as an alternate way to get data into the system.
How do we get access to IQVIA for upload? And when will access be available?	Information will be provided at AQO, during the November and December webinars, and posted online so everyone can access the information.
Will you be able to include data manger meeting charge into each site yearly STS participation fee? and issue continuing education credits	We are discussing internally at STS. You will continue to receive continuing education credit for AQO.

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Why are you allowing so many people to have access?	Everyone who requires access to submit data or for quality improvement purposes will have access. It is helpful for all surgeons to have access to the data so they can see how they're doing. This is something you can control using your participant contact form. https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database/sts-national-database-forms
If surgeons work across multiple sites will they be able to see site level data for each site	Access will depend on the relationship to a contract, so if they are part of a participant ID, they will be listed as someone who is appropriate to have access to that PID.
Is the Dashboard simply a near real-time DQR for data validation and completeness?	You will be able to use the dashboard for data validation and completeness. It will have missingness functionality. The dashboard will also include your site's benchmark data, STS aggregate, and like groups.
A little off topic but could the audits be completed for a health system level vs a participant level? It is incredibly time intensive with very little gain. We have the same abstractor/data manager and surgeons for each of our 3 sites.	The sites are randomly selected for the audits every year. It is 10% of sites for ACSD. It is a computer-generated list, eliminating those that have been audited within the last three years.
Will the number of data points decrease in the new version? If so, how much?	There is about a 34% net decrease in the number of data points.
How will this upgrade impact the sites that are retroactive in their collection process? Sometimes can be 2 months behind!	There should be no change.
Can we calculate our own risk scores/O/e ratios still?	Yes, this information will be in the report overview.
The DCRI does a nice job of great explanations of risk score etc., although very detailed, it is very helpful. Will IQVIA provide this?	The report overviews will still be provided by DCRI. They will be posted by IQVIA.
How many people will have access to the "harvest report"? Will it still be one recipient as it is now? currently the primary data contact is different from the harvest report recipient at my hospital;	It will depend on the roles you define for folks at your site.
How will we receive risk adjusted data if we do not receive a PDF outcomes report? Will it be available at a later date on the IQVIA dashboard?	This information will be updated on your dashboard on a quarterly basis.

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Can the monthly webinars on the first Wednesday for STS-ACS be scheduled to start at 1:00 pm EST please?	The time that was selected took all four time zones into account. For now, the webinars will remain as scheduled, but we will look into it.
No custom fields with IQVIA, ever?	The goal is not to compete with vendors. The purpose is to provide an alternate for those who choose not to use vendor software.
I appreciate Melinda's promptness, too. However, there are many Q&As which don't make it into training manual that I find helpful (when "friends" sent me their Q&As). I would like to see ALL of them.	Some of the Q&A are rather difficult and can cause confusion due to the greyness of some the cases. We try to include as much as possible, and we do it thoughtfully so we don't cause confusion. The goal is to represent things that could happen anywhere. Sometimes the situations are so unique they do not qualify as frequently asked questions.

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