So, You’re Being Audited.

Now what!!!

Barbara Sanders, VP of Operations
Cardiac Registry Support, LLC.
Nothing to Disclose
Why do we audit the registries?

• Clinical Databases are voluntary registries. Like any database, if it’s going to be used for to determine standard of care or outcomes, it must be validated by an external validation team.

• Specific Audit Variables are reviewed for
  • Accuracy
  • Consistency
  • Comprehension

• Only when this is done, can the database be accepted as a reliable, trusted information source
STS GTS Focus For 2019

- Time frame with primary review of July 2017-June 2018 cases
- All Audit Elements Taken from V2.3
  - 40 data elements for lung cancer
  - 35 data elements for esophageal cancer
- Agreement rates are calculated
  - Overall
  - Each Surgery Case Type
  - Each Audit Element
What is included in the Audit?

- Data Collection Questionnaire
- Comparison of surgeries performed, and surgeries submitted.
- Reabstraction of 20 submitted procedures for specified time frame
- Summary of observations and trends identified, with agreement rates calculated
- Final Report to STS
Audit Notification Letter

Dear Ms. Minnie & Dr. Mickey,

As the Surgeon Representative or the Primary Data and File Contact, you are receiving this letter as notification that Walt Disney Medical Center has been randomly selected for participation in The Society of Thoracic Surgeons’ (STS) General Thoracic Surgery Database Audit. As indicated in the STS General Thoracic Surgery Database Participation Agreement, Section 1.2.1, data submitted to the STS National Database may be subject to independent audit. The audit is designed to complement the internal quality controls established to maximize the integrity of the data collected by examining the accuracy, consistency and completeness of the data. The audit process is intended to be educational and not meant to be threatening or punitive. It affords an opportunity to identify variability in data collection so STS can share best practices, improve data definitions, and enhance training manuals and other educational offerings.
We’ll help you through the process

- Why do I have to do this?
- What to do first?
- Who should you ask to help you?
- How long will this take?
- When will I get my results?
Read through everything

• There is a lot of information in the instructional letter.

• Fill out the Questionnaire and send back
  • You don’t need to tell us specific names of people, titles are fine

• Schedule your Introductory Webinar
  • Invite any team members that you think can help you
  • Write down your questions
Who can I get to help me?

Abstraction Team

Medical Records

IT
Introductory Webinar

• Have your team join you on the call
• Brief review of instructions and Questionnaire
• Review of Audit Elements, those related to Parent/Child elements
• Uploading Data
• Common misconceptions
• Facility specific challenges/questions
Complete and return your questionnaire

- Used to verify contact information for the audit
- What’s your abstraction process?
- Who helps to collect the data?
- Who enters the data?
- Are the surgeons actively involved with registry?
- Training of new team members
- Data clean up and harvest
- Who is going to submit the data for audit?
OR Log Comparison

• Validates that all qualifying cases are submitted to the registry
  • Not all sources tell the same story
    • OR Logs
    • Procedures Reports
    • Hospital Billing
    • Surgeon’s Office Schedule
• Which source is most reliable
  • It’s a learning process
Gather Case Information

- Each EMR is unique and has its own challenges.
- Be sure to double check that you have provided enough supporting information.
- What if you have information not in your EMR?
- Bookmark your information.
- Upload your first case to validate file and bookmarks.
Uploading the data

- CRS Portal is a web-based document storage
- Portal Security Information:
  - Cardiac Registry Support’s File transfer portal secures connection and transmissions with Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 1.2 and an attached SHA256 Security Certificate.
- Only one person per facility can access the CRS Portal
- Double check your PDFs before uploading
- 1 Gigabyte file size limit
- Is your firewall blocking your upload?
• OR Log is reviewed and compared to list provided by DCRI
• Your facility is placed in queue to be reviewed by assigned auditor
• Mismatches reviewed by Audit Lead and validated
• Results compiled and sent to STS
So what are we seeing this year...

- TNM
- Readmission
- DVT Prophylaxis
- Smoking Cessation Counseling

Understanding of Data Definition
- Zubrod Score
- Number of Nodes Sampled