ADVANCES IN QUALITY & OUTCOMES: A Data Managers Meeting
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2025 • SAN ANTONIO, TX

AQO Program

Course Description

The 2025 Advances in Quality & Outcomes (AQO): A Data Managers Meeting features sessions for all four components of the STS National Database. This year's meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, and in San Antonio, Texas, from Thursday, Sept. 25 – Friday, Sept. 26, 2025. Data managers and surgeon leaders will come together to share valuable research and best practices with the goal of improving data collection and patient outcomes.

This meeting includes a virtual forum for Intermacs/Pedimacs attendees. Also, live sessions in San Antonio, Texas, for Adult Cardiac, Congenital Heart, and General Thoracic attendees. The program will have sessions at scheduled times and recorded programs that you can watch at your convenience.

Speakers will offer the latest information about the Database, including version upgrades and new features, as well as provide timely tips on improving data collection and abstraction. Plus, you can review e-posters, take part in a special networking event, and meet with industry representatives in the exhibit hall.

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 9:15 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
Intermacs/Pedimacs – Virtual Forum

This program will focus on the Intermacs Database and its Pedimacs component, reflecting changes in the scope of mechanical circulatory support device implants and patient management. Sessions are designed to help participants improve data collection and advance their registry coding skills, using a case-based learning format. This will be a virtual forum with the opportunity to interact with speakers and get your questions answered.

Moderators: Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN

9:15 – 10 a.m.	**Intermacs/Pedimacs New Data Managers** Rebecca S. Harap, BSN, RN-BC, Kerry Schindler, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, Neelam Tejpal, MS, CCRP, Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN
10 – 10:05 a.m.	**Welcome** Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN
10:05 – 10:35 a.m.	**Intermacs/Pedimacs High-Level Overview** Francis D. Pagani, MD, PhD
10:35 – 11:05 a.m.	**Intermacs Patient Profile** Francis D. Pagani, MD, PhD

11:05 a.m. – 12 p.m.	**Preview of the Intermacs AE Revision** Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN
12 – 12:30 p.m.	**Lunch Break**
12:30 – 12:35 p.m.	**Presentation – Sherri Ann Wissman Memorial Excellence Award** Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN
12:35 – 1 p.m.	**Platform Upgrade** Rama Rudraraju, PhD
1 – 1:30 p.m.	**Utilizing Intermacs Data in Custom PowerBi Builds** Rachel Wright, and Jodie Schmitz
1:30 – 1:55 p.m.	**Intermacs/Pedimacs Dashboard – Kirklin Solutions** Brandon A. Singletary, PhD, MPH
1:55 – 2:20 p.m.	**Intermacs/Pedimacs Dashboard – User** Luisa Villanueva
2:20 – 2:50 p.m.	**Break**
2:50 – 3:20 p.m.	**Implant Form – How to Interpret the Operative Report for Submission** Rebecca S. Harap, BSN, RN-BC
3:20 – 3:45 p.m.	**Temporary Devices: RVAD, ECMO, Balloon Pump** Jeffrey Teuteberg, MD
3:45 – 4:10 p.m.	**How to Code Devices in the Intermacs/Pedimacs Database** Sylvia M. Laudun, DNP, MBA, RN
4:10 – 4:40 p.m.	**How to Use Intermacs Data for Quality Improvement at Your Site** Sheena Lamon, BSN, RN
4:40 – 5:00 p.m.	**Intermacs Wrap-Up** Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Patricia Potter, BSN, RN
5 p.m.	**Session Adjourns**

On-Demand Content

Lieve Data Download
Devin Koehl, MS

Tips & Tricks for Data Abstraction
Tausha Vaseliades-Sidbury

TBD Topic
John K. Pennington, MSHI

How to Use Intermacs/Pedimacs Data for Joint Commission
Sheila Bailey, BSN, RN

Transfers
Carmelita Runyan, MSN, RN-BC, CCRN

Thursday, Sept. 25 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD) – Texas Ballroom Salon B

This program will focus on the GTSD, helping participants to improve data collection and advance registry coding skills. Sessions will use a case-based learning format.

Moderators: Leigh Ann Jones, BS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN

Time	Session
7 – 8 a.m.	**Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C**
8 – 8:05 a.m.	**Welcome** Leigh Ann Jones, BS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN
8:05 – 8:40 a.m.	**Where We've Come From, Where We're Going** Christopher W. Seder, MD
8:40 – 9:15 a.m.	**Pre-Operative Section – Version 5.26.1** Andrew Feczko, MD, MA
9:15 – 10 a.m.	**Lung Cancer Section – Version 5.26.1** Christopher W. Seder, MD
10 – 10:30 a.m.	**Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**
10:30 – 11 a.m.	**Esophageal Cancer Section – Version 5.26.1** Gavitt Woodard, MD
11 – 11:30 a.m.	**Lung Cancer & Esophageal Cancer Anatomy** Andrew Feczko, MD, MA
11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	**Lung Cancer & Esophageal Cancer Nodes** Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS
12 – 1 p.m.	**Lunch in Texas Ballroom C**
1 – 1:30 p.m.	**Histology Lung & Esophageal Cancer** Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS, and Ruth Raleigh, BSN, RN
1:30 – 1:55 p.m.	**Lung Cancer 101** Christopher Towe, MD
1:55 – 2:20 p.m.	**Lung Cancer 101: Case Examples** TBD Data Manager Speaker
2:20 – 2:45 p.m.	**Esophageal Cancer 101** Justin Blasberg, MD
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	**Esophageal Cancer 101: Case Examples** Kellie Knabe, MSN, RN, CCRN
3 – 3:30 p.m.	**Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**
3:30 – 3:50 p.m.	**Post Op Complications – Version 5.26.1** Gillian C. Alex, MD

3:50 – 4:10 p.m.	**Post Op Complications: Case Examples** Laura Shultz
4:10 – 4:40 p.m.	**How to Use the GTSD for Quality Improvement** Gillian C. Alex, MD
4:40 – 5 p.m.	**GTSD Abstract** TBD Data Manager Speaker
5 p.m.	**Session Adjourns & Networking Reception** Terrace on the 5th

On-Demand Content

Paraesophageal Hernia
David D. Shersher, MD

Tracheal Resection
Paul Shipper, MD

Thymus Resection
Phillip Linden, MD

GTSD Audit
William Burfeind Jr., MD

GTSD Research
Elizabeth David, MD

Thursday, Sept. 25 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central
Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD) – Texas Ballroom Salon A

This program will focus on the CHSD, helping participants improve data collection and advance registry abstraction and coding skills. The sessions will use a case-based learning format.

Moderators: Leigh Ann Jones, BS, Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

7 – 8 a.m.	**Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C**
8 – 8:05 a.m.	**Welcome** Leigh Ann Jones, BS, Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN
8:05 – 8:35 a.m.	**CHSD High-Level Overview** James E. O'Brien, MD, FACS
8:35 – 9:10 a.m.	**VADs** Ram Kumar Subramanyan, MD, PhD
9:10 – 10:00 a.m.	**VADs: A Complex Case** Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN
10 – 10:30 a.m.	**Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**

10:30 – 11:10 a.m. **CHSD Research, Mortality/Morbidity/Length of Stay Model**
TBD Surgeon Speaker

11:10 – 11:35 a.m. **A Map to MAPCAs**
Michael Ma, MD

11:35 a.m. – 12 p.m. **A Map to MAPCAs: Case Scenarios**
Allison Steele

12 – 1 p.m. **Lunch in Texas Ballroom C**

1 – 1:35 p.m. **General Education Review**
Leslie L. Wacker, BS, and Chasity Wellnitz, MPH, BSN, RN

1:35 – 2:05 p.m. **IQVIA Harvest Reports**
Cassandra Davidson, MHA, BSN, RN

2:05 – 2:35 p.m. **CHSD Audit**
Christopher Mascio, MD

2:35 – 3 p.m. **CHSD Audit: How to Get Ready, Trends, Pitfalls**
Angela Ebel, MSN, RN, and Diane Hersey, BSN, RN

3 – 3:30 p.m. **Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**

3:30 – 3:55 p.m. **DORV**
David Overman, MD

3:55 – 4:20 p.m. **DORV: Case Scenarios**
Ashley Dunser, BSN, RN, CPN, CCRN

4:20 – 5 p.m. **How to Use CHSD Data in Real Time**
Rebecca Sam, MSN, RN, CPN, CCRN-K, and Carmen H. Watrin, MSN, RN

5 p.m. **Session Adjourns & Networking Reception**
Terrace on the 5th

On-Demand Content

CHSD Anesthesia
Justin B. Long, MD

What I Wish I Knew: A New Data Manager's Experience
Robin Keyser

Common Congenital Cardiac Conditions
Rebecca Sam, MSN, RN, CPN, CCRN-K, Carmen H. Watrin, MSN, RN, and Ruth E. Lemus, BSN, RN

Procedure Specific Factors
Meena Nathan, MD, MPH, FRCS

This program will focus on the ACSD, offering updates on the scope of cardiothoracic surgery practice and helping participants improve data collection and advance registry abstraction and coding skills.

Moderators: Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN

Time	Session
7– 8 a.m.	**Breakfast in Texas Ballroom C**
8 – 8:05 a.m.	**Welcome** Nancy Honeycutt, BSN, RN, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN
8:05 – 8:45 a.m.	**Adult Cardiac High-Level Overview** Michael E. Bowdish, MD, MS
8:45 – 9:20 a.m.	**Valve Replacement or Repair after Transcatheter Valve Therapies** Dawn Hui, MD
9:20 – 10 a.m.	**Valve Replacement or Repair after Transcatheter Valve Therapies: Case Scenarios** Molly Whittenburg, and Melinda Offer, MSN, RN
10– 10:30 a.m.	**Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	**Aorta** Karen Kim, MD, MS
11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.	**Aorta: Case Scenarios** Kali Carroll, RN
12 – 1:00 p.m.	**Lunch in Texas Ballroom C**
1– 1:25 p.m.	**Division of Responsibility: Data Manager vs. Surgeon Leader** Erin McCabe, BSN, RN
1:25 – 3 p.m.	**Breakout Discussion Groups**

IRR: What It Is, Why We Do It, and How We Do It
Keli Parker

Pros and Cons: Concurrent vs Retrospective Data Abstraction
Heather Homampour, MSN, RN

Navigating US News and World Report and Other Reporting Agencies Accessing Your Data
Judy Smith, RN

Strategies to Effectively Train New Data Managers
Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP

Juggling Multiple Registries: ACSD and CHSD and TVT, Oh My!
Nancy Satou, RN

The Secret Sauce for Working with Data Abstraction Companies

Alla Kaner, MSN, RN

3 – 3:35 p.m.	**Breakout Discussion Reporting** Keli Parker, Heather Homampour, MSN, RN, Judy Smith, RN, Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP, Nancy Satou, RN, and Alla Kaner, MSN, RN
3:35 – 4:05 p.m.	**Break in Texas Ballroom Foyer**
4:05 – 4:40 p.m.	**Unfolding the Mysteries of Mitral Valve Procedures** Robert L. Smith, MD
4:40 – 5:05 p.m.	**Unfolding the Mysteries of Mitral Valve Procedures: Case Scenarios** Meetali Mahendrakar, MBBS, MS, CCP
5:05 – 5:30 p.m.	**2025 Dorothy Latham Poster Award Announcement, ACSD Wrap-Up and Looking to the Future** Dawn Hui, MD, and Carole Krohn, MPH, BSN, RN, LSSBG
5:30 p.m.	**Session Adjourns**

On-Demand Content

The Canadian Experience with the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database
Nadia Clarizia, MD

ACSD Audit: Lessons Learned
Annie Kouchoukos, BSN, RN

Mechanical Assist Device Overview
Mani A. Daneshmand, MD

Surgical Therapies for Atrial Fibrillation
Alex Iribarne, MD, MS

What Does the Future Hold for the Treatment of Structural Heart Disease?
Yoshi Kaneko, MD

30-Day Follow-Up: Tips and Tricks for Staying Off the 2% Missing List
Alla Kaner, MSN, RN, and Carley Hanmer

AQO Virtual Meeting Platform On-Demand Content
General Session

President's Remarks
Joseph F. Sabik III, MD

Principles of Effective Communication
Ann Herold, RN

CMS Updates
Keith A. Horvath, MD

How to Start a Quality Program at Your Hospital

Kevin W. Lobdell, MD

The Importance of the STS National Database from the Heart Team Perspective
Vicki Morton

Questions?
- Elisa Robles-Gnet, Meetings and Conventions Manager, meetings@sts.org
- Emily Conrad, STS National Database Education Manager, econrad@sts.org

Program may be subject to change