



ADVANCES IN QUALITY & OUTCOMES: A Data Managers Meeting

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2026
New Orleans, LA

Abstract Submission Information & Guidelines

Abstracts will soon be accepted for presentation consideration at The Society of Thoracic Surgeons 2026 Advances in Quality & Outcomes (AQO): A Data Managers Meeting. Accepted submissions will be presented as posters at the meeting in New Orleans, LA, and on the virtual platform. Some selected abstracts may also be presented orally at the conference.

Abstracts submitted for presentation consideration at the AQO Meeting must use STS National Database Core Fields or Participating Sites Custom Fields to achieve results. Two types of abstracts will be considered:

- Scientific Abstracts: Use of evidence-based practice to improve outcomes
- Quality Improvement (QI) Abstracts: Any hospital/system QI activity demonstrating change in behavior or outcome

NOTE

All submitted scientific abstracts must be original works not previously presented. Authors submitting QI abstracts, who may want to submit their work for presentation/publication at another meeting, should be aware of other societies'/accrediting bodies' rules and regulations regarding submission of previously presented works.

Abstract Development Guidelines

1. Provide the corresponding author's full name, institution, email address, and telephone number. The corresponding author will submit the abstract electronically.
2. Provide the remaining authors' names, titles, and name(s) of the authors' institution(s).
3. Title of Abstract: Provide a short and specific title that indicates the nature of the study. Please use title case and no periods or abbreviations. (*Example*: This Is a Properly Formatted Title).
4. Abstracts must be limited to 500 words and typed into the online submission form. The 500-word limit does not include the title of the abstract or the names of authors; it applies to the total word count of the four sections listed below.
5. All abstracts must be broken into the following sections, or they will not be accepted. Abstracts not in compliance with the following instructions will not be reviewed:
 - **Background**: A brief statement of the study's purpose and current state of research in the field
 - **Methods or Study Population**: Clearly and briefly defined methods of the study or experimental approach
 - **Results**: A summary of the study results, including sufficient details to support the conclusions made. To summarize results, you may include three total images which can be a table (not to exceed 10 columns, 10 rows), graph, or illustration (.jpg file not to exceed 4 inches x 3 inches, at 300 dpi). Abstract must include data results.
 - **Conclusion**: A statement concerning the significance of the work and its implications for further research, if further research is applicable.
6. It is important that methods and results be defined clearly in the abstract; therefore, general statements such as "results will be presented" are not acceptable. When a procedure or method is stated to have "advantages," those advantages should be defined. Abstracts that simply summarize results without defining background and methods are equally undesirable. When percentages are used, the absolute numbers of derivation must be stated.
7. Abstracts comparing participant-specific data versus regional data will not be reviewed.

Criteria for Evaluating an Abstract

Background

- Does the introduction demonstrate the need for the study?
- Is the statement of the problem clear and concise?
- Is the statement placed early in the presentation?
- Is the problem presented with enough background material to acquaint the reader with the importance of the problem?
- Does the author give a good reason why the study is timely?
- Are the terms relevant to the study clearly defined?
- Does the introduction reflect the current state of research in the field?

Methodology

- Are the details of data collection clearly and logically presented?
- Are the limitations of the procedure clearly stated?
- Is the population and the method of selecting the sample adequately described?
- Are the significant characteristics of the sample described?
- Are the instrument(s) appropriate for the study both in terms of problem and approach?

Results

- Is the presentation of data clear?
- Does the analysis show a relationship to the problem and its solution?
- Is the tone of the report unbiased, impersonal, and scientific?
- Are the tables, charts, or graphs pertinent?
- Regional comparisons are not allowed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Are the results discussed in relation to the problem and conceptual framework?
- Are the conclusions and generalizations clearly stated?
- Are the limitations of the findings clearly delineated?
- Are the conclusions well organized and in good sequence?
- Are implications for future research appropriate?

Disclosure Form

All authors listed on the abstract are required to submit a Disclosure Form at the time of abstract submission. Your submission will not be listed as complete unless each author has submitted a Disclosure Form.

Accepted Abstracts or Acceptation Notice

Authors of accepted abstracts are responsible for developing a poster that will be presented during the 2026 AQO Meeting. Posters will be presented in-person in New Orleans and as an E-poster on the virtual platform. Final instructions will be provided once abstract review is complete. Authors must be registered to attend the AQO conference to present their accepted work.

Contact

If you have questions regarding the abstract submission process, please contact Carole Krohn, Director, STS National Database, at ckrohn@sts.org or Emily Conrad, STS National Database Education Manager, at econrad@sts.org.