



ONLINE RESOURCES

Harvest Schedules

Submit FAQs

Forms

New Contact for Contract Questions

Elizabeth Watkins is the new Contracts Manager for the STS National Database. If you have questions regarding contracts, contact Liz at ewatkins@sts.org.

Roundtable Video on Regional Quality Cooperatives

[Watch here](#) as Drs. Richard L. Prager, Jeffrey B. Rich, James R. Edgerton, and Baron L. Hamman discuss how to form a new regional quality cooperative, including getting surgeons to participate, proof of early success, and struggles to starting.

Annals Database Series

The Annals of Thoracic Surgery is publishing a series of articles on outcomes analysis, quality improvement, and patient safety throughout 2016. [Read an article on the Congenital Heart Surgery Database](#) and [an editorial on the past, present, and future of the Database](#).



March/April 2016

Get Answers to Questions About Readmissions

Data managers often submit questions related to readmission, a field that is included in all three components of the STS National Database. The field captures all-cause patient readmissions to short-term acute care hospitals. [Click here for guidance](#) on accurately filling out this field.

Submit an Abstract for AQO

[Abstracts are now being accepted](#) for presentation consideration at Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting, September 28-30, 2016, in Baltimore, Maryland. AQO is the perfect forum to share valuable research and important clinical findings with hundreds of your peers. Your input can make the STS National Database even better! Abstracts must be submitted no later than Monday, May 9, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. CDT. Registration and housing information for AQO will be posted in the coming months. If you have questions about the abstract submission process, please contact Laura Medek at lmedek@sts.org or (312) 202-5839.

Sign 2016 PQRS Consent Form

The STS National Database has once again been designated as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry for the Physician Quality Reporting System, and individual surgeons participating in the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database are eligible to reap the benefits of this designation. In order to benefit, participating surgeons [must sign a consent form](#) that will allow STS to submit data on 17 different measures to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on their behalf. Surgeons who report these data for 2016 will avoid a 2% payment cut in 2018. **There is no additional cost to participate, and a surgeon must sign a new 2016 form even if one was completed in a previous year.** [Learn more about the measures](#) that STS will be reporting to CMS.

Site Audits Beginning Soon

STS National Database audits are designed to complement internal quality controls by examining the accuracy, consistency, and completeness of the data collected within the Database. Ten percent of participating sites will be selected at random for an independent audit and will be notified within the next month. Please make sure your Primary Data and File Contact is current by checking the DCRI portal, and [fill out this form](#) if you need to make changes. Logistics pertaining to the audit will follow at a later date.

New Patient Resource from STS

The Society recently launched its new patient information website: ctsurgerypatients.org. Available in both English and Spanish, this website is easily viewable on computers, tablets, and smartphones. All information has been reviewed by STS members and is divided into sections on adult heart disease, pediatric and congenital heart disease, lung, esophageal, and other chest diseases, heart and lung transplantation, and before, during, and after surgery. Health care professionals can visit www.sts.org/patient-information to download a printable PDF for referring patients to this website.