

November/December 2017

### Intermacs to Join the Database

The STS National Database will soon have a fourth component. The Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support, or Intermacs, will become part of the STS National Database on January 1, 2018, joining the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD), the Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD), and the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD). Intermacs is a North American registry for patients who receive an FDA-approved mechanical circulatory support device to treat advanced heart failure. Stay tuned for more information on this new chapter for the STS Intermacs Database.

**Current Intermacs and/or Pedimacs participants:** Data access rights to these databases will expire on December 31, 2017, absent an executed Participation Agreement and an executed Business Associate Contract and Data Use Agreement with STS for each registry. For more information about these Agreements, please contact STS National Database Contracts Manager Elizabeth Watkins at [ewatkins@sts.org](mailto:ewatkins@sts.org).

### AQO Online Available Soon

Thanks to all who attended Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting in October. The meeting was a great success, with more than 500 attendees and other participants. [Watch the video](#) of STS President Richard L. Prager, MD welcoming attendees to AQO.

AQO Online is expected to be available in the [STS Learning Center](#) early next month. Meeting attendees will be given free online access to the sessions for which they were registered, while those who did not attend can [purchase access](#). *Note: No continuing education credit will be given for viewing AQO Online.*

### Register for the STS Annual Meeting

Registration and housing are now open for the [STS 54th Annual Meeting](#), January 27-31, 2018, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A number of sessions will focus on teamwork in cardiothoracic surgery, quality improvement, patient safety, and the STS National Database, including:

- Multidisciplinary Innovations in Cardiothoracic Patient Care
- Research Using the STS National Database
- Patient Safety Symposium: Biases and Errors—Why We Do What We Do
- Quality Improvement abstract session

You'll also be able to visit the STS Regional Data Managers booth in the Exhibit Hall and learn how to become more involved in regional quality improvement efforts. Check out the [Abstract Book](#) for more details, and [register today](#).

## **ACSD Updates: Data Quality Reports, Procedure IDs, Valve Abstraction**

- Some issues have been found with Data Quality Reports (DQR) for the ACSD, such as the anesthesia section appearing for sites that do not participate and inconsistencies with edits and checks. STS and the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) are working to address these problems. If you have questions regarding your DQR, contact [STSAultDB@dm.duke.edu](mailto:STSAultDB@dm.duke.edu).
- Procedure IDs in version 2.9 of the ACSD are being reviewed by STS and DCRI. Any updates will be communicated to your vendor and highlighted in future issues of *STS National Database News*.
- When entering data on valve sizes, please be aware that there are no valves sized less than 15 mm. Please double-check and enter the appropriate size. In addition, please capture the appropriate type of valve implant (bioprosthetic, mechanical, etc.). If you are unsure, refer to the valve manufacturer's website to verify.

## **Change in Feedback Report for CHSD**

Starting with the 2017 Fall Harvest Feedback Report, which will be released in January, CHSD participants will notice the term “episode of care” being used for mortality reporting. [Read a letter](#) from Drs. Marshall L. Jacobs and Jeffrey P. Jacobs describing this change.

## **2018 Invoices Sent**

Invoices for 2018 participation fees were mailed to primary billing contacts on December 1. If you have questions regarding your invoice, contact Arelia Garcia, Staff Accountant, at [agarcia@sts.org](mailto:agarcia@sts.org) or 312-202-5817. If you would like to pay your invoice over the phone, contact Ming Chan, Accounting Assistant, at [mchan@sts.org](mailto:mchan@sts.org) or 312-202-5913.

## **Continuous Harvesting Available—Submit Data Often**

All data managers are encouraged to take advantage of continuous harvesting, which allows you to submit small amounts of data frequently, rather than a large amount all at once. This means you will receive a Data Quality Report after each submission, allowing you more time to make corrections before data submission closes.

## **Submit Participant Account Updates**

Please note that all participant account updates (adding or removing surgeons, changing site name or vendor) should be sent to [pcf@sts.org](mailto:pcf@sts.org). Also, if you are adding a surgeon, you must submit a [Participant Contact Form](#) and signed [Schedule A](#).

## **Get Answers to Your Clinical Questions**

Are you struggling with a clinical question regarding data abstraction? Fill out the [Clinical Question Request Form](#) and get a response within 30 days. In addition, STS has provided [responses to frequently asked questions](#). New questions will be added with each issue of *STS National Database News*, so make sure to check back.

## **TVT Registry Participants: Update on Cerebral Protection Devices**

Please watch for the addition of a cerebral protection device to the device list in version 2.2 of the STS/ACC TVT Registry™. Currently, there is one FDA-approved device to be added—the Sentinel Cerebral Protection System by Claret Medical.