

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
2018 Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting  
Hollywood, California  
September 26 – 28, 2018

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## **Abstract Submission Information & Guidelines**

Abstracts are now being accepted for presentation consideration at The Society of Thoracic Surgeons 2018 Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting. **Abstract submissions will be accepted until Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time.** Abstracts received after this date will not be accepted for inclusion in this year's program unless prior authorization is obtained. Abstracts are to be submitted electronically at [sts.org/2018AQOabstract](http://sts.org/2018AQOabstract). Accepted submissions will be presented as posters; however, some selected abstracts also may be presented orally.

### **IMPORTANT**

Abstracts submitted for presentation consideration at the AQO Meeting must use STS National Database Core Fields and 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.

## **Formatting Guidelines**

1. Provide the corresponding author's full name, email address, and telephone number. The corresponding author should submit the abstract electronically.
2. Provide the remaining authors' names and titles.
3. Provide the name(s) of the authors' institution(s).
4. 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).
5. Abstracts must be **limited to 250 words** and typed into the online submission form. The 250-word limit does not include the title of the abstract or the author names; it applies to the total word count of the four sections listed below.
6. All abstracts must be broken into the following sections, or they will not be accepted:
  - A. Background: A brief statement of the study's purpose and current state of research in the field.
  - B. Methods or Study Population: Clearly and briefly defined methods of the study or experimental approach.
  - C. Results: A summary of the study results, including sufficient details to support the conclusions made. To summarize results, you may include one table (not to exceed 10 columns, 10 rows), one graph, or one illustration (.jpg file not to exceed 4 inches x 3 inches, at 300 dpi). Abstract must include data results.
  - D. Conclusion: A statement concerning the significance of the work and its implications for further research, if further research is applicable.
7. 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.

8. Abstracts comparing participant-specific data versus regional data will not be reviewed.
9. Abstracts not in compliance with these instructions will not be reviewed.

### Important Dates

- Abstract improvement suggestions will be sent to the corresponding author by **Friday, June 29, 2018**.
- Resubmitted abstracts must be received no later than **Friday, July 20, 2018**, for final consideration.
- The corresponding author will be notified of abstract disposition by **Friday, August 10, 2018**.

### Criteria for Evaluating an Abstract

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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, and graphs pertinent?
  - Regional comparisons not allowed.
4. 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?

Authors of accepted abstracts are responsible for developing a poster that will be presented at the 2018 AQO Meeting. Poster guidelines will be provided with final disposition notice for accepted abstracts. Authors must be registered to attend the AQO conference in order to present their accepted work.

All authors listed on the abstract are required to submit a Disclosure Form at the time of abstract submission. Abstracts will *not* be reviewed unless all authors have submitted Disclosure Forms. Please submit Disclosure Forms at [sts.org/2018AQOabstractdisclosure](https://sts.org/2018AQOabstractdisclosure).

**If you have questions regarding the abstract submission process, please contact Emily Conrad at [econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org) or 312-202-5839.**