

### **AQO Is Almost Here—Don't Miss the Chance to Attend!**

Secure your place among cardiothoracic surgery professionals and data collection personnel who are dedicated to delivering and improving quality patient care. Registration is still available for [Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting](#), which will be held in Chicago, October 18-20. As an added bonus, meeting registrants will receive free access to AQO Online—meaning you can revisit meeting presentations, including slides and audio, for the next year.

During the meeting, you can show off your knowledge by participating in a Jeopardy competition! STS is looking for both new and experienced data managers to participate in this interactive session about abstraction and coding of lung and esophageal cancer cases. To volunteer, contact Emily Conrad at [econrad@sts.org](mailto:econrad@sts.org).

### **Deadlines Approaching for Public Reporting and MIPS**

Two important October consent form deadlines are coming:

- STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD) participants who wish to publicly report composite results and star ratings that will be posted in January 2018 must [submit a completed consent form](#) by **October 9**. *Participants who have previously enrolled in the initiative do not need to submit new consent forms.* For more information, visit [publicreporting.sts.org](http://publicreporting.sts.org) or contact Sydney Clinton at [sclinton@sts.org](mailto:sclinton@sts.org).
- To have STS [submit Quality measure data](#) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as part of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System, surgeons participating in the ACSD must [complete the online consent form](#) by **October 31**. If you have questions, contact Derek Steck at [dsteck@sts.org](mailto:dsteck@sts.org).

### **Reminder: Submit Data Early**

Data Submission 4 for the ACSD will be open on October 2 and close December 1 at 5:00 p.m. ET. Spring 2018 Data Submission for the GTSD and CHSD will open on October 9 and close on March 23, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Please take advantage of continuous submission and [submit your data early](#) so you have time to make corrections. It may take up to 72 hours to receive a Data Quality Report (DQR) from DCRI once you submit data. Sites submitting data less than 72 hours before the closing time risk not receiving a DQR in time to make changes and resubmit any corrections.

### **New Webinar Series Available**

STS has released several on-demand webinars that provide an overview of the changes and clarifications for version 2.9 of the ACSD, answer common questions submitted by data managers, and share a list of resources that will be helpful in the data abstraction process. A second webinar series on new data manager training also is available. View the webinars on the [Data Manager Education webpage](#).

### **STS Launches Redesigned Website—Update Your Bookmarks**

Yesterday, the Society launched a redesigned website. Please be sure to update the URLs of any pages that you may have bookmarked. To locate Database information, navigate to “Registries & Research Center” from the blue bar at the top of the homepage. If you hover over the button, a link to “[STS National Database](#)” will display. Click the link and you’ll find important resources, such as [data manager education](#), [harvest schedules](#), [forms](#), and more. The left-hand menu contains links to pages for the [ACSD](#), [GTSD](#), and [CHSD](#), which is where you’ll find data collection documentation. If you have feedback regarding the new website, please contact [marketing@sts.org](mailto:marketing@sts.org).

### **Quick Hits: GTSD Spec Upgrade, ACSD Modules Closing, Data Checks, Participation Fees**

- The specification upgrade for version 2.4 of the GTSD has been moved to July 1, 2018. Important details regarding this upgrade will be discussed at AQO.

- Both the atrial fibrillation and anesthesia modules for the ACSD will be closing this year.
    - The anesthesia module will close December 1, which is the last day to submit cases performed prior to July 1, 2017. All cases from July 1 and later must be entered using version 2.9 of the ACSD.
    - The Afib module will close on December 31; please enter all data by this date for the data to be included in your analysis.
  - Review your list of participating surgeons and submit any necessary changes on the [Participant Contact Form](#) no later than November 1, 2017. Database participation fees for 2018 will be based partially on the number of active surgeons listed.
  - Additional data [edits and checks](#) will be instituted for version 2.9 of the ACSD. You will notice the changes on your DQR starting with Submission 4.
  - The [mitral valve composite measure](#) will be published in the ACSD Quarter 2 Data Analysis Report coming out at the end of October.
  - Are your colleagues not receiving important communications from STS? Encourage them to check their junk e-mail folders and add STS to their contacts. If they still do not see any STS communications, you may want to ask your IT department to whitelist [stsheadquarters@sts.org](mailto:stsheadquarters@sts.org).
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