



## ONLINE RESOURCES

[Harvest Schedules](#)

[Submit FAQs](#)

[Forms](#)

### Access Database Forms

A new section on the STS website houses [several important Database forms](#) in one place. Here, you'll find Participant Contact Forms, Schedule As, Schedule Bs, and consent forms for STS Public Reporting and the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS).

### Sign PQRS Consent Form

Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participants, don't forget to sign your [2016 PQRS consent form](#). There is no additional cost to participate, and a surgeon must sign a new 2016 form before Monday, October 31, even if one was completed in a previous year.

### View STS Readmissions After CABG Webinar On-Demand

STS has released a new installment in its webinar series on quality initiatives. [Readmission After CABG](#) is free and available for on-demand viewing. Visit [www.sts.org/webinars](http://www.sts.org/webinars) to check out other STS webinars.



May/June 2016

### Register for AQO Now to Receive Early Bird Pricing

Registration is under way for the 2016 [Advances in Quality & Outcomes: A Data Managers Meeting](#), to be held September 28-30 in Baltimore, Md. AQO attendees will benefit from in-depth presentations by both surgeons and data managers, who will outline practical applications of data collection and provide helpful insights on achieving quality outcomes. For schedule details, [view the preliminary program](#). Make sure to [register by Wednesday, August 31](#), for early bird pricing; after this date, registration fees will increase by \$100.

### Improve Your Data Completeness for Mortality Status

Database participants are required to meet certain [data completeness thresholds](#) for reporting operative mortality. These thresholds are tied to eligibility for composite scores (star ratings). To help you improve your data completeness and assure the highest level of accuracy, the Society has gathered tips and suggestions from data managers for [tracking patient status](#). For more information or to share tips you may have, contact Susan Becker, STS National Database Manager, at [sbecker@sts.org](mailto:sbecker@sts.org).

### DCRI Contact Update Starts in Mid-July

The Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) will soon begin its annual contact updating process. It is extremely important to update your contacts so that your site receives STS and DCRI communications, data for your surgeons and anesthesiologists can be submitted successfully at harvest time, and you receive an accurate invoice for your 2017 participation fee. Look for e-mails from STS and DCRI with more information in the coming weeks.

### Encourage Data Manager/Surgeon Collaboration in Regional Groups

For more than 20 years, STS National Database data managers have operated regional groups offering a collaborative networking environment for peer-to-peer support and guidance related to data abstraction. Active surgeon participation is a vital component to the success of a regional group. Through joint quality improvement meetings and by offering educational opportunities to local data managers, collaboration between surgeons and data managers ultimately improves the overall data integrity of the Database. [Read about regional group activities](#) with data managers and surgeons in Texas and Michigan, and learn more about [regional groups in your area](#).

### Annals Database Series

*The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* is publishing a series of articles on outcomes analysis, quality improvement, and patient safety throughout 2016. "[The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Adult Cardiac Surgery Database: 2016 Update on Research](#)" summarizes the ACSD-based research efforts published in 2015 and reviews how the risk-adjusted outcome analyses and quality measures reported in these studies have contributed to informing daily clinical practice in the last year. A subscription to *The Annals* is a benefit of STS membership; if you haven't already joined the Society, [apply now](#).