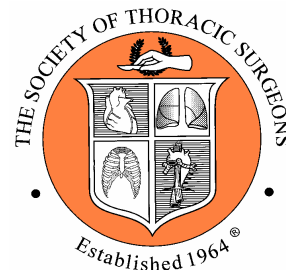


# THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

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February 13, 2003

Dear STS Certified Software Vendors and Participant Generated Software Sites,

At the STS National Adult Cardiac Data Managers Meeting on February 2, 2003, an announcement was made that all vendors had received a list of changes that could be made to their software to allow for adjustments to the ICU and intubation time fields. This statement was premature and that information is only now being distributed and is enclosed in this letter.

PLEASE NOTE that the information enclosed here is slightly different than what was presented in San Diego. At the meeting a user pointed out that the range for "Postop Vent Hours – Total" should be 0.0 – 9999.0 instead of 0.0 – 5000.0. This change is reflected in the attached document.

The intention of the changes is to allow users to enter zero values in these fields and to record the data in decimal rather than integer format. As you are undoubtedly aware, not being able to record values of zero is causing users to have to leave fields blank in certain clinical situations. This causes large problems for the users when they receive their data completeness reports. Many users also want to be able to collect this data in fractions of hours and not just whole hours. Although changes like these would normally be reserved for full specification upgrades, since the next upgrade will not be available to the users until the beginning of 2004 an interim solution was needed.

You can make these changes to your software and distribute them to your users now or whenever is appropriate for you. These changes are not required of you or your users and are being presented only to help the users collect their data more accurately now instead of having to wait for the next full upgrade. You can decide for yourself whether or not you incorporate them into your software based on the time and resources you have available and the needs of your users.

Thank you for your continued efforts in providing reliable software for the STS users. If you have any questions about these changes or any other software issues, please feel free to contact Paul Meehan at [paul.meehan@duke.edu](mailto:paul.meehan@duke.edu).

Sincerely,

Mary C. Eiken, RN  
Director, Quality, Research & Development

## Vendor software approved changes:

SeqNo	Field Name	Change	Change Description
354	Initial ICU Hours	Valid data from "1 - 5000" to "0.0 – 5000.0"	Include value of 0 and allow decimal format
356	Additional ICU Hrs	Valid data from "1 – 5000" to "1.0 – 5000.0"	Allow decimal format
357	Total Hrs ICU	Valid data from "1 - 9999" to "0.0 – 9999.0"	Include value of 0 and allow decimal format
1230	Prev Non Surg - Stent	Parent field from null to "Prev CV Intervent"	
4350	Cross Clamp Time (min)	Valid data from "1 – 600" to "0 – 600"	Include value of 0
4360	Perfusion Time (min)	Valid data from "1 – 999" to "0 – 999"	Include value of 0
4676	Initial Hours Ventilated	Valid data from "1 - 5000" to "0.0 – 5000.0"	Include value of 0 and allow decimal format
4679	Additional Hours Ventilated	Valid data from "1 – 5000" to "1.0 – 5000.0"	Allow decimal format
4680	Postop Vent Hours - Total	Valid data from "1 - 5000" to "0.0 – 9999.0"	Include value of 0 and allow decimal format. Also increase the range to allow for all total values.