



# The Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Database Managers' HIPAA UPDATE

June 3, 2003

In response to HIPAA requirements, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) recently forwarded its Standard Form Business Associate Contract and Data Use Agreement (Standard Form Agreement) to the Primary Data and File Contacts at all STS National Database Participating Sites. You should have now received a copy of the Standard Form Agreement and the accompanying letter of explanation. In order to keep HIPAA fresh in all of our minds, we will also periodically send out STS HIPAA Updates to all Participating Sites. This is the first such Update.

As stated in previous correspondence, our goal is to have each Participating Site entered into the Standard Form Agreement prior to its Database's next harvest. This will ensure that no Participating Site is left behind and that all are able to share in the Database's harvest information. For the Adult Cardiac Database, the next harvest is tentatively set for September 2003; for the Congenital Database, the next harvest is tentatively set for June 2003; and for the General Thoracic Database, the next harvest is tentatively set for October 2003. **To ensure there is no lapse in your participation, we ask that you return the executed Standard Form Agreement to us as soon as possible.** The Standard Form Agreement and related documents can be viewed on the STS website.

- Go to STS Website: [www.sts.org](http://www.sts.org)
- Select from the left-hand navigation bar the orange tab: Database
- From drop down menu select: HIPAA

Because the Congenital Database harvest begins soon, June 16, 2003, the STS is currently helping the active congenital sites that did not qualify for the HIPAA extension to achieve compliance as soon as possible. We are happy to report that we have received executable Standard Form Agreements from the majority of these sites, including Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron and the Minnesota Children's Heart and Health Clinic.

The STS appreciates all the time and effort put forth by Data Managers from all three Databases to obtain signatures for the Standard Form Agreement. Following is a list of just a few of our Adult Cardiac Participating Sites that have already returned their executable Standard Form Agreements:

- The Emory Clinic
- University of Illinois at Chicago - CT Surgery
- Rush Presbyterian-Saint Luke's Medical Center
- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic

If you have not received or if you have questions pertaining to completing and signing your Standard Form Agreement, please feel free to contact Lauracyn Montgomery at 312-202-5833 or [lmontgomery@sts.org](mailto:lmontgomery@sts.org).

Thank you again. We look forward to receiving your signed Agreement as soon as possible and to your continued participation in the STS National Database.