



Australia and New Zealand Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) Database Program

Information for New Sites

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) Database Program is an established quality assurance program aimed to monitor and improve cardiac surgical performance. The Program collects, monitors, reviews, and reports on routine systematic collection of data related to each cardiothoracic surgical procedure. Surgical performance data is communicated to the Australian Cardiac Surgery Community in the hope that knowledge of performance will lead to improved patient outcomes. The ANZSCTS Database Program Steering Committee welcomes feedback from participating sites about how to improve the Program initiatives.

ANZSCTS Database Program, is operated and managed by the Centre for Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics (CCRET), Monash University. Professor Chris Reid, Co-Director of CCRET, serves as Data Custodian.

This document details how to join the ANZSCTS Database Program, its operations, and the benefits of participation. Additional materials within the information pack for new sites include:

- ANZSCTS paper-based data collection form used by sites.
- Quarterly Progress Report (mock copy), comprising quarterly performance data for all participating sites. A report distributed to Heads of Units with aim to feedback performance and address outliers where applicable.
- An example of the comprehensive Annual Report, comprising annual performance data for all contributing hospitals, with in depth statistical analyses. This report is distributed to all stakeholders with aim to feedback performance and assure quality of patient care.
- A public promotional brochure summarising aims and operations of the ANZSCTS Database Program, useful for distributing at clinics.

To participate in the ANZSCTS Database Program, and other general enquiries, contact us:

ANZSCTS Database Program Team

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Upon receipt of your expression of interest to participate, we will forward your hospital's details to The Australasian Cardiac Surgery Research Institution (ACSRI) Ltd. ACSRI is the governing body responsible for the contractual and billing aspects of the ANZSCTS Database Program. Questions may be directed to:

Mr Gil Shardey
Chairman ACSRI
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Please read on for detailed information about the benefits of participation in the ANZSCTS Database Program, and the operational process for involvement. For further information on ANZSCTS Database Program, visit www.anzscts-database.org

We thank you for your interest in the ANZSCTS Database Program, and look forward to hearing from you soon.



Benefits of Participating

- 1) Ongoing and quarterly peer review and monitoring
 - Each Unit will be provided with a report detailing their quarterly performance, benchmarked against other participating Units.
- 2) Annual Reporting to benchmark individual Unit and Surgeon performance
 - Data will be displayed by Unit and by surgeon (where relevant) in a de-identified format. Identification of the Unit and operating surgeons for that Unit will be made available to the Unit Head of Department and Data Manager only.
- 3) Site Audits to ensure ongoing data collection accuracy
 - A compulsory activity, performed every three years by the ANZSCTS Database Program Audit Team.
- 4) Be part of a National effort to monitor and improve cardiac surgery health outcomes.
- 5) Access to the ANZSCTS Database for research purposes.*
- 6) Induction and training for staff who will be involved in the ANZSCTS Database Program.
- 7) Access to the Web System with the ability to:
 - Collect data in a standardised format to enable benchmarking;
 - Access and download own data;
 - Generate web reports for individual surgeons; and
 - Access resources and tools such as an online risk calculator.

*Subject to approval by the ANZSCTS Database Program Research Committee, and contingent of approval by a Human Research Ethics Committee.



Operational Process

Once a contract has been finalised and signed, the operational process follows as depicted below:

1. Ethics Approval

Each site must obtain ethics approval from their hospital Human Research Ethics Committee, and provide a copy of the Approval letter to CCRET.

2. Appointment of Data Manager

Each site must appoint a dedicated Data Manager, who is responsible for the timely and accurate entry of data into the database, as well as dissemination of news/reports from the ANZSCTS Database.

3. Training

CCRET will provide training to Data Managers regarding definitions and dataset, data submission/online entering process and use of the Web System.

4. Data Entry

Data entry may be completed in one of two ways:

- Web System (recommended)
 - Provided by CCRET, the web entry portal contains built-in logic tests to minimise data entry errors. Training will be provided to Units by CCRET staff.
 - The web entry portal closely follows the paper-based Data Collection Form (*see Appendix 1*) which is filled out by surgeons/registrar/data managers prior to web entry.
- Data Export
 - Data is sent to CCRET on a quarterly basis and is verified by CCRET with resultant queries sent back.
 - Hospitals wishing to use this option **must** use a CCRET accredited system. Please contact us for more information.
 - Access to the Web System is also granted, it is used as a tool for data managers to clean data.

5. Web System (www.anzscts.registry.org.au)

The Data Manager from each hospital is issued with a username and password to access the Web System. They have the ability to:

- View all admissions from their hospital;
- Amend data;
- Produce web reports (summary of procedures and performance indicators); and
- Export data (only one month at a time).



Surgeons will receive an individual code to measure their performance and protect their identity. Codes may be requested from CCRET, by sending the name and contact details of the surgeon.

6. Analysis

CCRET analyse Unit performance measured against Key Performance Indicators (KPI), reporting the results to the ANZSCTS Database Program Steering Committee for review and discussion.

Units with outliers will be informed, and an escalation plan implemented. This involves:

- The Unit being asked to undertake internal review of data.
- A concurrent external Review Committee to be activated comprising of members at the executive level of ANZSCTS.
- A meeting to be arranged between hospital administration and the hospital's funding body if the KPI still remains out of range, where a decision is to be made with regards to hospital operations.

7. Reporting

CCRET will provide Quarterly Progress Reports (*see Appendix 2 for an example*) as well as comprehensive Annual Reports (*see Appendix 3 for an example*), showing the performance of de-identified participating Units against KPI. The goal is to:

- Monitor data as the cornerstone of best practice.
- Benchmark performance.
- Assure quality data through peer review.
- Improve hospital resource utilisation by identifying gaps in care.
- Improve patient outcomes.