

National Trauma Data Standard: Implementation Made Simple

The American College of Surgeons recently published a revised implementation schedule for the adoption of the National Trauma Data Standard (NTDS) for use in the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB). Implementation of the new data set and the required new data submission format will be phased in **over a three-year period**. As the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) NTDB technical development partner, Digital Innovation (DI) has been working closely with the ACS to establish an implementation timetable that incorporates ample time for planning and preparation. For example, **no changes are needed for the 2007 call for data! Your data will be submitted using the same data set and submission format as in previous years!**

The table below lists the milestones set by the NTDB/ACS, and suggested activities for achieving the transition goals:

Timeline of Required Changes for Submission to the ACS' National Trauma Data Bank			
Data Collection Year	Call for Data (Submission Year)	Registry Data Set	Data Format of Submission
2006	Feb 2007	<i>NO CHANGES!</i> Use your current Registry data set	Same format as previous years.
2007	Feb 2008	Facilities may continue to use their current Registry data set, and map data using a "Best Fit" into the new NTDS fields for submission to NTDB. <i>Facilities should begin planning the transition of their Registry data set to support the full NTDS.</i>	A new NTDS XML data submission format will be required for the 2008 submission*
2008	Feb 2009	Facilities may continue to submit their 2008 Registry data set and map data using a "Best Fit" into the NTDS fields. <i>By January 2009, facilities should be ready to collect data using the full NTDS data set.</i>	NTDS XML data submission format
2009	Feb 2010	The full NTDS data set (incorporated into registry processes for 2009 data collection) should be submitted to NTDB. i.e., All NTDS fields submitted to the NTDB must be complete.	NTDS XML data submission format

During 2007, participants should begin to assess the best method of mapping from their existing data dictionary to the new data dictionary. DI also recommends that participants review all technical, clinical, legislative and procurement activities that may affect the process of modifying existing trauma registry systems to the new NTDS data dictionary. DI will be providing additional NTDS Product Roadmap information at our Users Conferences in October 2007, which will further address NTDS implementation for 2009 and beyond.

Digital Innovation will be providing all active Collector and NTRACS facilities participating in NTDB with the NTDS XML data submission download capability that is required for the 2008 call for data. This software will be provided at NO ADDITIONAL COST to those active DI customers.