

## NTDB® data points

# Time's up

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In last month's *Bulletin*, this column highlighted the release of the fifth edition of *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006*. The "green book" requires that all level I, II, and III trauma centers submit their trauma registry data to the National Trauma Data Bank®. The current method for submission occurs annually during the call for data, which takes place February through April and closes near the first week of May. This time frame allows for data cleaning, loading, analysis, and preparation of the *Annual Report*. By the time this article is published, this year's deadline for initial data submission will have passed.

The NTDB is committed to assisting facilities that need to submit their data in order to be compliant with the green book requirement. Trauma centers submitting data directly to the NTDB may need software upgrades. The trauma centers that submit data to their state, which in turn submits to the NTDB, will need a method of identifying their patients within the state data submission. In addition, the transition to the new National Trauma Data Standard (NTDS)—the new data dictionary—begins this year.

The 2007 call for data is the final NTDB call for data based on the old data dictionary. Participants will begin working with



their registry vendors to make the transition to the new data dictionary, and the 2008 call for data will be the first NTDB call for data based on the NTDS version 1.0. Participants should have obtained an interface that provides mapping from their current registry fields to the new standard or have obtained updated software based on the new data dictionary.

There are a number of issues and challenges ahead, but the end result is well worth it. Having one data standard for all trauma registry software products will go a long way to improve the overall quality and consistency of trauma data. The NTDB is here to assist you during this transition process. In doing so, a robust Web site

at <http://www.ntdsdictionary.org> (see graphic on this page) has been designed to answer many questions regarding the transition to the new data dictionary. Even though time's up for submitting data this year, let us look ahead to next year as we build upon the largest aggregation of trauma data in the world.

Throughout the year, this column will provide brief monthly reports. The full NTDB *Annual Report Version 6.0* is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF file and a PowerPoint presentation at <http://www.ntdb.org>.

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at [mneal@facs.org](mailto:mneal@facs.org).