



Program Update for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers

March 3, 2021

Program Update for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers

As the Mitral Foundation prepares for 2021 applications, we want to make you aware of a few updates to the Recognition Program. Policy documents are attached for your reference, as is the most recent issue of the *Standards and Best Practices for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers*.

1. COVID-19 Policy:

The pandemic has affected hospitals in various ways through 2020. To address potential reductions in mitral valve repair volume, the Foundation is permitting a Center to choose either data through 2019 or data through 2020 when submitting Recognition Applications and Annual Data Updates.

2. Updated Standards and Best Practices and related Performance Measures:

The Scientific Advisory Board updated the Standards and Best Practices to include the following clarifications effective as of March 3, 2021.

Please see the Explanation of Revisions to the Standards and Best Practices.

Performance Measure Update:

- a. **January 1, 2022:** The “90-Day Post-op TTE” Performance Measure will be updated starting with 2022 data (2023 applications). As of 2022, all Centers will be required to have implemented a process to review post-op TTEs on at least 95% of Index Mitral Valve Repairs within 90 days of the procedure.

From David H. Adams, MD, President, Mitral Foundation

Leadership identified a substantial variation in the timing and performance of post-operative TTE in centers applying to the Award program. This update for 2022 aims set to a standard that all patients undergoing a mitral valve repair for degenerative disease should have a baseline post-operative TTE within 90 days of the procedure. **“Documenting the physiological mitral valve result by TTE in an awake patient under normal loading conditions is critical to evaluate the outcome of the procedure,”** says David H. Adams, MD, Cardiac Surgeon in Chief of the Mount Sinai Health System and President of the Mitral Foundation. **“This reference center award program is all about improving the standard of care for patients undergoing degenerative mitral valve repair and confirming the success of the procedure in terms of restoring normal mitral valve function,”** noted Dr. Adams.

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- b. While hospitals are required to meet the 95% performance measure criteria, there are a number of ways in which to obtain post-operative TTEs and achieve compliance with the measure. The Scientific Advisory Board recommends obtaining the echo before discharge from the hospital. This has been added as a “Best Practice.”

3. Annual Data Update:

The Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award is a three-year award. To maintain the Award, a Recognized Center must submit the following data each year:

- a. Center: Index Mitral Valve Repair volume
- b. Center: Index Mitral Valve Replacement volume
- c. Reference Surgeon: Index Mitral Valve Repair volume
- d. Reference Surgeon: Index Mitral Valve Replacement volume

The Annual Data Update will be due by the end of Q2, 2021. Upon successful review of the Index Repair volume and Index Repair Rate by the Executive Committee, the 2021 Award and media kit will be issued. Data Update instructions will follow from the Mitral Foundation.

For more information, please contact the Mitral Foundation at award@mitralfoundation.org.



COVID-19 Adjustment for Applications for Recognition Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers

March 3, 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted Centers in various ways. Given so many variables, the Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award Program Executive Committee approved that applicants may choose one of the following options when submitting applications for recognition in 2021:

1. Exclude 2020 and replace with 2017-2019, or
2. Include 2020 without adjustment

Refer to the *Standards and Best Practices for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers* for details on criteria.

Questions: award@mitralfoundation.org



**Explanation of Revisions to the
Standards and Best Practices
*For Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers***

March 3, 2021

**Explanation of Revisions to the
Standards and Best Practices
For Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers**

Introduction

The Mitral Foundation created the *Standards and Best Practices for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers* (“*Standards and Best Practices*”) to recognize hospital-based centers throughout the United States which have the facilities, personnel and other specialized resources to successfully perform mitral valve repair surgery.

As of March 3, 2021, the Scientific Advisory Board (“SAB”) approved minor revisions to the *Standards and Best Practices*. No standards were changed. The below updates are effective immediately:

- 1.5: The SAB clarified that a Center must have long-term, short-term, or temporary mechanical circulatory assist device capability.
- Participating Surgeon status was removed from the document to focus the application process. Recognition is conferred on the Center, and the application reviews performance measures for the Center and the Reference Surgeon.
- 3.2: The SAB clarified that Center volume data requires the inclusion of Reference Surgeon volume. The Center may include volume for only the surgeons included in the Center or it may include volume for all surgeons at the hospital.
- 3.3: The SAB clarified that the Reference Surgeon must be listed as the surgeon of record on cases submitted.
- 7.1: The SAB clarified that STS public reporting must include mitral valve data.
- 8.15: The SAB documented a best practice recommending that a Center maintain a database or log to track all index procedures throughout the year for reporting purposes.
- 8.16: The SAB documented a best practice recommending that Centers obtain a post-op TTE before the patient is discharged from the hospital.
- Glossary / Index Mitral Valve Procedures: The SAB clarified that Index Procedures include concomitant mitral valve operations and other cardiac operations, exclude secondary / functional mitral regurgitation, and exclude endocarditis or trauma.
- Glossary / Postoperative Renal Failure: The SAB clarified the definition.



Annual Data Update for Recognized Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers

March 3, 2021

Annual Data Update

During the three-year award period^{1,2}, each Recognized Center must provide updated data to the Mitral Foundation following the end of each year in order to maintain its award. After review and approval by the Mitral Foundation, Centers which continue to meet the criteria will be presented the next year's award by the AHA and the Mitral Foundation.

Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers are encouraged to maintain a database of Index Mitral Valve Procedures that can be easily referenced to update data requested annually. This database will also be helpful when completing the full renewal application every three years.

1. **Center Index Mitral Valve Repairs:** Report the number of Index Mitral Valve Procedures that are **repairs** in the preceding calendar year for the entire Center.

Reference: *Standards and Best Practices for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers*, 3.1 Center Volume

2. **Reference Surgeon Index Mitral Valve Repairs:** Report the number of Index Mitral Valve Procedures that are **repairs** in the preceding calendar year for each Mitral Valve Reference Surgeon.

Reference: *Standards and Best Practices for Mitral Valve Repair Reference Centers*, 3.3 Reference Surgeon Volume

3. **Center Index Mitral Valve Replacements:** Report the number of Index Mitral Valve Procedures which are **replacements** in the preceding calendar year.

Reference: *Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Performance Measures* 5.3 Center Repair Rate

4. **Reference Surgeon Index Mitral Valve Replacements:** Report the number of Index Mitral Valve Procedures that are **replacements** in the preceding calendar year for each Mitral Valve Reference Surgeon.

Reference: *Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Performance Measures*, 4.1 Reference Surgeon Repair Rate

¹ All Centers are required to provide data annually to maintain the three-year award.

² All Centers are required to re-apply for recognition every three years.



Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award Program Applicant Timeline

2021	[3],[5]	April	Applications Open
	[1],[2]	May	Application Review Cycle #1
	[1],[2],[4]	July	Annual Data Updates Reviewed Application Review Cycle #2
	[1],[2]	Sept.	Application Review Cycle #3
	[1],[2]	Nov.	Application Review Cycle #4
2022	[4]	March	Annual Data Updates Reviewed
	[5]	April	Applications Open
	[2]	May	Application Review Cycle #1
	[2]	July	Application Review Cycle #2
	[2]	Sept.	Application Review Cycle #3
	[2]	Nov.	Application Review Cycle #4
2023	[4]	March	Annual Data Updates Reviewed
	[5]	April	Applications Open 2020 Awardees re-apply
	[2]	May	Application Review Cycle #1
	[2]	July	Application Review Cycle #2
	[2]	Sept.	Application Review Cycle #3
	[2]	Nov.	Application Review Cycle #4

- [1] Timeline may adjust based on available annual data updates and applications.
- [2] Award presentations occur throughout the year.
- [3] Conclave Presentation.
- [4] Annual Data Update applies to current Recognized Centers.
- [5] As needed, Performance Measures and Standards will be updated before applications are issued.