

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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November 16, 2009

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Subject: Common Data Elements for Traumatic Brain Injury

Dear Colleague:

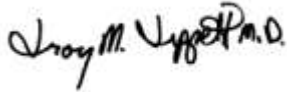
On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing 4,000 neurosurgeons in the United States, we would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts to develop a set of Common Data Elements for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Because your four agencies provide a majority of funding for government-supported TBI research in this country, we commend you for the foresight to work together on this crucial project.

TBI is a complex injury with a broad spectrum of symptoms and disabilities and a devastating impact on a person and his or her family. This project will minimize the investigator's need to design new case report forms and collection instruments every time a new TBI trial is funded. The common set of data collection instruments for prehospital, emergency department, imaging, surgical, ICU, acute care hospital, rehabilitation, and long-term outcome data points that are currently being constructed will eliminate the existing duplication process that occurs each time a new study is launched.

As you are aware, another advantage of this approach is that the data from these standardized collection instruments could then be deposited into a large database that grows every time a new study is added. The IMPACT database project was extremely labor-intensive and took years to standardize data from about a dozen TBI trials into one large database. Use of a Common Data Element approach can virtually eliminate this problem in the future.

Again, we would like to thank you for your efforts and offer our full support for this project.

Sincerely,



Troy M. Tippet, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Gerald E. Rodts, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

cc: Alex B. Valadka, MD, Past Chair, AANS/CNS
Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care

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