



[www.svspso.org](http://www.svspso.org)

Carrie Bosela, RN, CPC, CPC-I  
Administrative Director  
12 Commerce Avenue  
West Lebanon, NH 03784  
603-298-5509 ext. 329  
603-558-0163 (mobile)  
c.bosela@svspso.org

Jack L. Cronenwett, MD  
Medical Director  
12 Commerce Avenue  
West Lebanon, NH 03784  
603-298-5509 ext. 329  
j.cronenwett@svspso.org

Rebecca Maron, CAE  
Business Operations  
633 North St. Clair, 22nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-334-2301  
rmaron@vascularsociety.org

# Flexible Data Capture with M2S PATHWAYS

## Introduction

The following document outlines the use of Tag notation on the M2S PATHWAYS platform as a mechanism for flexible data collection. The Tag notation facilitates flexible data collection in that any new variable may be added to a registry once approved by the Patient Safety Organization (PSO). The PSO will provide governance over the approved Tag library including the list of approved Tags and the details surrounding their use.

## How to Use Tags

Tags should be placed **in the comments section** of the form. The comments section is shared across each tab, so the Tag may be added on any tab and will be carried over to other tabs automatically.

- The procedure and the follow-up forms utilize **independent comments fields**, such that comments (and therefore Tags) can be easily associated to the procedure or the follow-up.
- Any number of Tags may be placed in the comments section as long as they are **separated by at least one space**.
- The Tags may be placed **anywhere within the comment section** and may be interspersed throughout the comment text itself.

## Basic Tag Formatting

The basic Tag should follow the **#[Tag:value] format**, where ‘Tag’ is the unique variable name and the ‘value’ is a numeric or textual value.

The SVS PSO has defined the **Tag format**, and suggests that the Tag will indicate the unique name for the Tag.

**Example Tags:**  
#[SMOK:1]

M2S will include a dedicated ‘Tags’ column in any blinded dataset upon request. This column will include any Tags utilized in the comments section of the dataset with each Tag separated by a space.

## Format Example:

<b>TAGS</b>
#[SMOK:1] #[XXX:3] #[YYY:1]

The comments field is also included in the ‘Procedure & Follow-Up Data Download’ report for each center, enabling individual centers to easily access all their Tag data. At this time, the center download will not include a dedicated ‘Tags’ column; the Tags will be available within the comments column.

## Clinical Examples

### Example 1

A regional group wishes to monitor whether smoking cessation counseling was offered at time of discharge.

1. New variable = smokcs (smoking counseling), with options = yes or no
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[smokcs:yes] or #[smokcs:no]

This illustrates use of full word in response, i.e., yes or no, which requires more keystrokes but maybe less prone to error than entering numbers to stand for choices.

### Example 2

A regional group wishes to monitor whether nicotine replacement was prescribed at time of discharge.

1. New variable = nictrx (Nicotine replacement), with options = 0, 1 or 2 where 0=none, 1= patch, 2=gum
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[nictrx:0] or #[nictrx:1] or #[nictrx:2]

This illustrates use of numbers for categorical choices as response, which may be more applicable if many choices, or long words with many keystrokes.

### Example 3

A quality research project wishes to track high sensitivity C-reactive protein levels done pre-operatively.

1. New variable = hscrp (High sensitivity CRP), with options = value of CRP level
2. Hashtag would be entered as : #[hscrp:value] where value is number

This illustrates the use of numerical values being entered as a variable. The range of allowed values would need to be specified in the instructions to each site participating in the project.

### Note that variable names are not case sensitive.

Note that detailed instructions re choices of values and variable names must be provided to each participating site, since confusion would result in erroneous data entry, and there is no built in error trapping for these variables.

## Important Guidelines for Use

The hashtag-based solution provided by M2S is extremely flexible and allows regional groups to collect data quickly and efficiently. Please note that in order to maximize flexibility and ease of use, there is no error or range checking upon data entry.

Quality and appropriateness of the data are the sole responsibility of the individual entering the data. The datasets provided by M2S will contain the hashtag fields “as is”, without guarantee or warranty of any kind, expressed, or implied.

### Contact Us

Regional requests should be forwarded to Megan Mathy, [mmathy@vascularsociety.org](mailto:mmathy@vascularsociety.org).

If you have any general questions regarding the new Tag functionality, please contact Carrie Bosela at [c.bosela@svspso.org](mailto:c.bosela@svspso.org).