

We allocate OR time to individual surgeons. Can we still use the methods, since they plan OR time allocation to services?

Surgical service refers to a group of surgeons who share allocated OR time. An individual surgeon, a group, a specialty, or a department can represent a surgical service. Surgical service simply refers to the unit of OR allocation for predicting anesthesia providers and OR nurses availability. For example, suppose that all of the cardiothoracic surgeons practicing at a hospital are allocated OR time. Then, cardiothoracic surgery would be a service. For example, suppose that two otolaryngologists are partners in one of three otolaryngology groups that practice at a hospital. If the two otolaryngologists are together allocated OR time, then they would represent a service. For example, suppose that a busy surgeon is allocated 10 hr of OR time every Wednesday. Then, from the perspective of OR time allocation, that surgeon would represent a surgical service. [Click here](#) for a review article.

Note: “allocated time” differs from “block time” in that the latter is the term used for prediction of whether a surgeon will be available and will have elective cases to be performed on a date. The two often match.

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