

How is OR staffing determined, weekdays and weekends?

“Staffing” refers to the number of OR teams planned at each time of the day and on each day of the week. During scheduled work hours on weekdays, staffing by specialty is determined from the OR workload of different specialties. [Click here](#) for a lecture on the topic. [Click here](#) for a review article. During the afternoons and evenings of weekdays, staffing is often less, by specialty, than during weekdays.

Staffing can again be determined from the OR workload, but using different statistical methods. [Click here](#) for a lecture on the topic (based on anesthesia staffing, but also applicable to OR nurses). [Click here](#) for the abstract of the paper in AORN Journal (directed at OR nursing staffing). This graphical method to analyze 3 PM to 11 PM staffing also works well for 11 PM to 7 AM staffing, and in practice is implemented simply by subtracting 8 hours from each of the DateTime fields thereby treating all cases performed between 11 PM and 7 AM as if they were done between 3 PM and 11 PM.

During the weekends, staffing in-house and on call from home should be determined from OR workload and the patient acuity. [Click here](#) for the abstract in AORN Journal describing the steps. [Click here](#) for an article about holiday and weekend staffing, and [click here](#) for abstract explaining why the focus on non-elective cases is warranted. Over years, the percentage of cases performed on weekends or holidays remains stable ([click here](#)). [Download PDF](#) describing one-time and on-going assessment of all three methods at your surgical suite. [Download PDF](#) describing afternoon and weekend staffing at your surgical suite. [Click here](#) for a sample report. [Click here](#) and [click here](#) to learn about the implementation science, and [click here](#) for the full text of the first of the two papers.

Return to [Frequently Asked Questions](#)