SURGICAL SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY

Grow Robotics Case Volume with Weekend Availability

How a Texas Hospital Expanded Robotic Surgery Access, Improved Utilization, and Increased Volume

Overview

In early 2023, a 300+ bed hospital in northeastern Texas recognized both a challenge and an opportunity within its surgical services program. Facing limited access to robotic time during busy weekday schedules, surgeons sought to alleviate bottlenecks by opening time for cases on the weekends.

Hospital executives decided to expand access to enhance surgeon satisfaction and give patients more opportunities for a minimally invasive procedure. However, staffing limitations—particularly in the Sterile Processing Department (SPD)—posed a significant barrier. Adding weekend access would require a reliable, highly-trained surgical support presence to ensure safe, efficient operations and guarantee that weekend robotic cases would be performed with the same quality and timeliness as weekday procedures.

To meet this need, the hospital expanded its partnership with Surgical Solutions, leveraging our specialized staffing capabilities, lean process knowledge, robotic surgery expertise, and ability to scale coverage without requiring the hospital to add full-time staff.

This resulted in an additional **112 cases being performed**, with an estimated reimbursement of more than **$725,000***, or nearly **$6,500 per case**.

Expanding Surgical Access in a Resource-Constrained Environment

The hospital's goals were clear:

- **Expand surgeon access** to the robotic platform.
- **Increase utilization** of expensive capital equipment.
- **Address staffing challenges**, especially around sterile processing and OR support.
- **Enable growth** without adding full-time equivalents or burdening existing staff with overtime.

The primary obstacle was ensuring that weekend operations could run as seamlessly as weekday cases. Without an experienced team working between sterile processing and the operating room, the risk of delays, turnover inefficiencies, or case cancellations was too great.

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A Strategic Weekend Robotics Program—Built for Reliability, Efficiency, and Growth

Surgical Solutions worked alongside perioperative leadership to develop and execute a comprehensive plan to support increased robotic access through a combination of scheduled and on-call weekend staffing, supported by operational enhancements that ensured a weekday-equivalent experience for surgeons and patients.

Key components included:

- **Purpose-Built Weekend Coverage**

  A mix of scheduled and on-call shifts gave the hospital flexible yet reliable coverage. Surgical Solutions provided an experienced team trained on the hospital's workflows, equipment configurations, and surgeon preferences.

- **Alignment of Sterile Processing Capacity**

  To keep SPD from being a limiting factor, Surgical Solutions collaborated with the hospital team to align our technicians' weekend availability for instrument readiness. This ensured robotic trays were processed, assembled, and ready to support weekend case volumes safely and efficiently.

- **Weekday-Equivalent Efficiency**

  A core principle of the intervention was that weekend cases must run like weekday cases as much as possible. Surgical Solutions identified and implemented workflow improvements that minimized or eliminated delays—ensuring predictable room turnover and readiness for first-case on-time starts (FCOTS), a key measure of consistency.

Measurable Gains in Access, Utilization, and Revenue

The impact of the weekend robotics program is clear. Over the weekends covered, the hospital successfully completed 112 robotic cases, averaging 2.5 cases per available weekend.

In addition to alleviating weekday backlogs and giving surgeons greater scheduling flexibility, the expanded access contributed meaningfully to hospital revenue. The weekend cases resulted in an estimated **$725,578* in reimbursement (approximately $6,478 per case)** without adding new full-time positions or increasing overtime burden on existing staff.

Importantly, the ROI extended beyond revenue:

- Improved platform utilization strengthened the business case for existing and future robotic investments.
- Operational consistency ensured that weekend cases ran with the same efficiency and predictability as weekday operations.
- Reduced weekday congestion improved access for other service lines and better balanced OR demand.

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A Scalable Model for Hospitals Seeking Robotic Growth

This case demonstrates how a targeted, well-supported weekend strategy can unlock significant value for hospitals already equipped with robotic technology but facing weekday capacity constraints. By partnering with Surgical Solutions, the hospital was able to expand surgeon access, improve utilization of its robotic platform, and generate substantial additional revenue—without hiring additional staff or compromising operational quality.

This demonstrates how weekend robotics can be a key component of a hospital's long-term growth strategy, and the model is fully scalable for other hospitals looking to grow volume while maintaining operational consistency and financial efficiency.

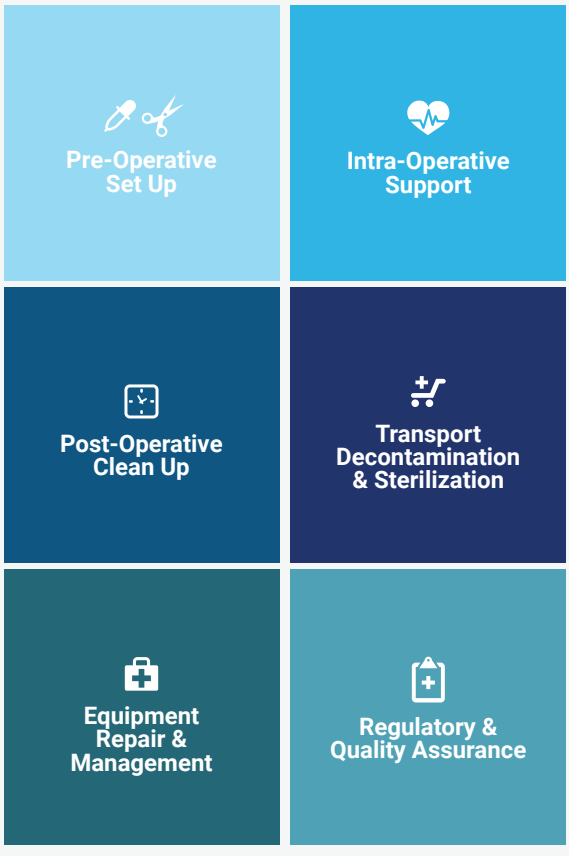
Why Choose Surgical Solutions

Transforming lives is at the heart of everything we do. Our services bring:

- **Predictive Repair Insights:** Proactive monitoring and trend analysis help identify issues before they impact workflow, protecting up time and improving equipment reliability.
- **Continuous Workflow Refinement:** Ongoing assessment of reprocessing, clinical flow, and handoff between departments ensures that efficiency gains not only persist but expands over time.
- **Sustained Operational Alignment:** Regular coordination between Endoscopy, Sterile Processing, and vendor partners maintains accountability and keeps all departments moving toward shared goals.
- **Long-Term Cost Optimization:** Through reduced repair volume and improved vendor relationships, the hospital continues to benefit from measurable financial advantages year after year.

* Estimated value calculated using Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services published reimbursement rates for the procedures performed based on the APC Payment System or lowest-acuity multiplier from the MS-DRG Payment System. Actual results may vary.

Let Surgical Solutions empower your hospital with proven expertise and a collaborative approach. Together, we'll optimize efficiency, elevate patient care and achieve lasting improvements.



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