

Percentage of Claims Paid and Average Payment for Paid Claims, Adjusted to 2008 Dollars, by Specialty and Overall

SPECIALTY	% OF CLAIMS PAID	AVERAGE INDEMNITY
Oral surgery	50	\$16,254
Anesthesiology	36	\$40,129
Otorhinolaryngology	63	\$71,467
General and colorectal surgery	66	\$90,467
Obstetric and gynecologic surgery	61	\$95,693
Plastic surgery	78	\$98,416
Orthopedic surgery	71	\$133,047
Ophthalmology	79	\$148,283
Urologic surgery	60	\$182,317
Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery	41	\$306,460
Neurosurgery	75	\$425,677
Average for all operative specialties	62	\$146,201

Source: Special request, Wrong patient—ECRI Institute: wrong patient or wrong body part by specialty and year, 2008, Physician Insurers Association of America.

Adjusting all paid claims to 2008 dollars, the over-all average indemnity paid for a claim of wrong-site surgery was \$146,201 (see Table), with the highest average indemnity paid by neurosurgeons at \$425,677 and the second highest by urologists at \$306,460.

For more information, visit <http://www.psa.state.pa.us>.

This table accompanies the following:
 Quarterly update on preventing wrong-site surgery project.
Pa Patient Saf Advis
 2008 Sep;5(3):104-6.

