

Relative Ratios of Claims and Paid Claims by Specialties, Compared to the Specialty with the Collective Minimum Number

SPECIALTY RATIO PAID CLAIMS	RATIO CLAIMS (CLOSED)	RATIO PAID CLAIMS
Oral surgery (baseline for each column)	1	1
Otorhinolaryngology	4	5
Anesthesiology	7	5
Ophthalmology	7	11
Plastic surgery	9	14
Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery	17	14
Urologic surgery	12.5	15
Obstetric and gynecologic surgery	14	17
General and colorectal surgery	43.5	57
Neurosurgery	40	60
Orthopedic surgery	88.5	126

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

Based on information from the Physician Insurers Association of America, of 487 claims related to wrong-site surgery reported over 10 years (1998 to 2007), oral surgeons were collectively the least likely to have or pay a claim against them; orthopedic surgeons were collectively the most likely (see Table).

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.

