

# Texas Health Fort Worth Optimizes Block Scheduling to Drive Growth

To grow surgical volume, recruit the best surgeons, and improve physician engagement in a highly competitive market, Texas Health Fort Worth transformed its OR by optimizing their block schedule, reimagining the governance structure to include more surgeon input, and adopting strategies to drive growth.

## Background

Texas Health Fort Worth (“THFW”) wanted to improve physician engagement and satisfaction, as well as grow surgical volume, without increasing the number of rooms running. Leadership identified the need to unlock more capacity, incorporate more input from surgeons to guide the strategic direction of the OR as well as drive improvements in OR operations.

## Our Approach

The GE Healthcare Partners approach included:

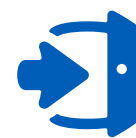
- Multidisciplinary team redesigned and implemented optimized block schedule based on national best practices and THFW’s historical data.
- Integrated physicians into block policy design, process improvement efforts, and governance structures through data analysis, best practice sharing, surgeon interaction, and administrative guidance.
- Developed a thorough approach to engage the surgeon community and their offices.
- Reimagined THFW’s governance structure to focus on transparency and physician engagement; dedicated separate committees to drive block management and operational improvements.
- Provided consistent communication of project progress to all stakeholders through weekly updates, surgeon office visits, and 1:1 physician meetings.
- Facilitated working sessions with frontline staff to develop redesigned workflows for first cases and room turnovers

This created consistent open time, increasing access to the surgical schedule for all surgeons:

OR	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
3	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
4	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
5	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
6	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
7	OPEN/Blocked	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
8	Blocked	OPEN	OPEN/Blocked	OPEN	OPEN
9	Blocked	OPEN/Blocked	Blocked	OPEN	OPEN/Blocked
10	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	OPEN	Blocked
11	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	OPEN/Blocked	Blocked
12	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
13	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
14	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
15	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
16	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
17	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
18	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
19	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
20	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
21	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked
22	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked

Additionally, the team identified several key steps to ensure sustainability of the improvements, including maintaining the governance structure’s commitment to making transparent, data-driven decisions as a group, leveraging dashboards to share surgeon block utilization and operational performance, and continuing to and market available attractive time to recruit accordingly and support growth.

## Results



### Capacity

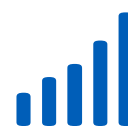
Improved from 99 open hours (<10% open) to 524 open hours (36% open).

## Enhanced Recruiting Tools



Doubled the number of available first case starts by creating full-day blocks and right-sizing allocations—a key recruiting tool for new surgeons.

## Growth



Performed more cases year-over-year as well as 20% more orthopedics cases in first two months after block go-live. The majority of other service lines also experienced growth.