



PREFcards — Revolutionizing OR Efficiency in ENT Surgery

CASE STUDY: 3-OR SINGLE SPECIALTY ENT SURGERY CENTER

Overview

This case study examines the implementation of PREFcards.com, a digital OR preference card management software, in a 3-OR single specialty ENT surgery center. The study reveals significant benefits in cost savings, operational efficiency, and patient care consistency.

Challenges

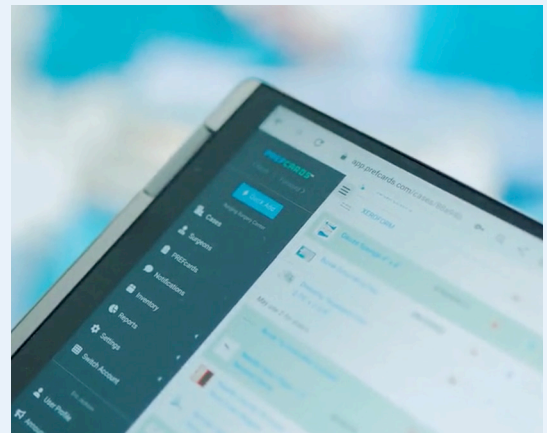
The surgery center faced inefficiencies and high costs due to non-standardized preference cards, particularly for their most common procedure: Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy. This aligns with industry-wide challenges, as inaccurate preference cards can lead to increased costs, delays, and inefficiencies in the OR [1].



Solution

The surgery center implementing [PREFcards.com](https://www.prefcards.com), focused on:

- 1 Standardizing and optimizing preference cards across all surgeons.
- 2 Utilizing the Procedure Costs report to identify best practices.
- 3 Employing the AI Card Suggestions feature to refine cards based on actual usage and waste.



Results

1 Cost Savings:

- ✓ **Potential annual savings of over \$160,000** by optimizing just two preference cards for Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy.
- ✓ One surgeon's more efficient method, when adopted by others, could cut operating time in half.
- ✓ This is a **65 times return** on ENT surgery center's investment.

2 Efficiency Improvements:

- ✓ PREFcards' advisor tool **identifying wasted supplies** in reoccurring procedures.
- ✓ **Automated card selection** saving clerical time.
- ✓ **Improved time management** through detailed reporting on case durations.
- ✓ Facilities using a digital solution to manage their preference cards see a **13% reduction in the average number of items picked** per case [2].

3 Operational Benefits:

- ✓ **Decreased delays in setup** due to detailed notes on preference cards.
- ✓ Easier **case scheduling**.

22% reduction in cases **with unused items** returned to inventory.

10% reduction in **wasted items** within cases.

60% reduction in case picking **errors**.

Pia, a surgical tech, at the surgery center, noted:

"The note feature in PREFcards (especially for specific items) helps OR staff confidence by labeling what certain supplies are for (right under it) and how to use/prepare them as well. At our surgery center, we tend to assign our techs/circulators to the same surgeons, so when one is sick or on vacation, this feature is a lifesaver to prevent delays (especially pictures of set ups!)."

Industry Context

The results achieved by this ENT surgery center align with industry-wide findings:

- ✓ University of Washington saved over \$1 million through preference card optimization [3].
- ✓ A large health system projected savings of \$5 million to \$7 million annually across multiple departments through preference card cleanup [4].
- ✓ Standardized preference cards can reduce variation in surgical supply costs by up to 30%.

Key Benefits of PREFcards.com



Cost Reduction: By identifying and standardizing best practices, PREFcards significantly reduces supply costs and waste.



Time Savings: Automated card selection and detailed setup instructions minimize delays and improve OR turnover times.



Improved Accuracy: AI-driven suggestions ensure preference cards reflect actual usage, reducing over-picking and stockouts.



Enhanced Staff Satisfaction: Clear instructions and consistent setups reduce stress and improve workflow for OR staff.



Data-Driven Decision Making: Detailed cost and time reports allow for continuous improvement in OR processes.

Conclusion

The implementation of PREFcards.com at this ENT surgery center demonstrated that standardization leads to significant cost savings and time savings through easier scheduling and detailed cards limiting delays. This case study highlights the transformative potential of digital preference card management in optimizing OR operations, reducing costs, and enhancing overall healthcare delivery.

Sources:

1. IMO Health, "Preference Cards 101: The Key to Maximizing OR Utilization"
2. NCBI, "Quality Improvement Project to Reduce Surgical Instrument Sterilization Costs"
3. Vizient Inc., "Physician preference cards: How a small card can lead to big savings in the operating room"
4. OR Manager, "Preference card cleanup projected to cut costs across departments"