

Do You Want to See More Patients in a Day?

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I would like to give you some ideas on how to “open” your schedule just enough to see a few more patients a day.

First and foremost, start on time, doctor. By “on time”, I mean your assistant should bring back your first patient five to seven minutes before the first scheduled appointment time. This gives the assistant time to help the patient back to the room, remove their shoes and converse appropriately with them and get the chart back to you so that you are actually entering the treatment room at the appointed time.

Another time saver is for you to go through your charts before the day begins. Go through each chart and write down on the daily schedule, next to each patient’s name, your treatment plan. This may include x-rays, taping, injection, orthotic casting, surgical redressing, etc. This takes about one hour to do. If you become familiar with your patient’s charts and your plans for the day **before** patients start, then that is one hour saved during the day in which you may actually see three to six more patients.

We prefill all of our injections at the beginning of the day. If it takes 30 seconds to fill each of maybe 15 injections a day, that is seven extra minutes to see another patient.

We premake our “orthotic casting kits” made up of a pair of gloves, six strips of plaster, a splatter sheet and the orthotic order form. The three minutes it takes to get this all together four times a day is 12 minutes to see another patient or two.

Pre-cut or order ready-made padding. Patients are not impressed with your “arts and crafts” skills. If it takes 30 seconds to cut each of 12 pads used in a day, that’s six more patient time minutes.

Those few ideas allows you to see seven to 11 more patients a day. You do the \$\$\$ math.