Which surgical services are likely to grow and which are likely to migrate? What is coming in new technology? If you’re adding or renovating ORs, how can you plan for an “OR chassis” that will adapt to changing needs?

In the keynote at the OR Business Management Conference May 12 to 14, 2010, in San Francisco, Fred Bentley, MPP, MPH, will trace demographic, reimbursement, and technological trends that will affect OR planning as the economy emerges from the recession and health care reform looms. Bentley is a health care strategist for the Advisory Board Company, Washington, DC, which consults with health care organizations on performance improvement and strategy.

The conference, with 4 seminars and 12 breakouts, features an all-day seminar and 3 breakouts on OR design and construction. Among other topics: effective block scheduling, OR charging, implant management, planning for robotics, and instrument purchasing.

Technology: What’s coming?

OR construction is starting to see some recovery from the recession, Bentley says, “but with more scrutiny.” Facility administrators are asking tough questions about the best use of space and resources.

On the technology front, blurring boundaries between ORs, cath labs, and interventional radiology create a new set of elements to consider.

More organizations, he says, are asking, “Can we continue to duplicate, or even triplicate space? Or is it time to recognize that the types of procedures, supplies, and staff are similar?” And are there ways to address the sensitive politics involved?

Meanwhile, new approaches are pushing the edges of minimally invasive surgery, including single-incision laparoscopic surgery and surgery through natural orifices. Will these catch on, and will they change thinking about where procedures are performed?

OR leaders continue to seek the right balance of inpatient and outpatient services. Patients often prefer the outpatient setting, but surgeons who also do inpatient surgery often don’t want to travel between 2 settings. Bentley will discuss factors to consider in striking the balance.

Other big questions: What procedures are still likely to move out of the inpatient OR? And who will capture that business—hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, or a new player in some areas, the short-stay hospital?

Big demographic shifts are on the horizon—an aging population that will need more health services, and if health care reform is enacted, more patients who are currently uninsured in need of care.
Bentley will forecast what these shifts could mean for health services, including surgery, and facility payments.

Download the conference brochure and register online at www.ormanager.com