

## PRACTICE PEARLS

### DISTRIBUTING WORK EVENLY BY PATIENT LAST NAME

The table shows what a fair division of workload would be (based on the first letter of patients' last names) among two, three and four covering physicians. The table data is from the 1990 U.S. Census Bureau list of all last names available at [http://www.census.gov/genealogy/names/names\\_files.html](http://www.census.gov/genealogy/names/names_files.html).

First letter of last name	Frequency (%)	4-Way		3-Way		Divided equally by # of letters A-I, J-Q, R-Z	2-Way		Divided equally by # of letters A-M, N-Z
		A-D, E-K, L-Q, R-Z	Frequency (%)	A-G, H-O, P-Z	Frequency (%)		A-K, L-Z	A-M, N-Z	
A	3.4		3.4				3.4		
B	9.2	24.8%	9.2	35.4%	43.5%	9.2	49.8%	64.2%	
C	7.9		7.9						
D	4.4		4.4						
E	1.9		1.9						
F	3.4		3.4						
G	5.3		5.3						
H	7.8	24.9%	7.8						
I	0.3		0.3						
J	3.6		3.6						
K	2.7		2.7	31.8%					
L	4.7		4.7						
M	9.7		9.7		28.8%				
N	1.7	22.5%	1.7						
O	1.4		1.4						
P	4.9		4.9						
Q	0.2		0.2						
R	5.8		5.8						
S	9.3		9.3				50.2%		
T	3.6		3.6					35.8%	
U	0.2		0.2	32.8%					
V	1.3	27.7%	1.3		27.7%				
W	6.7		6.7						
X	0.0		0.0						
Y	0.6		0.6						
Z	0.3		0.3						