Enhancement of Clinical Efficiency

Efficiency demands:

- A sufficient number of chairs to assure multiple patients can be readied for treatment so that the dentist can move quickly between chairs
- A proper number of clinical auxiliaries, including a roving dental assistant/sterilization technician
- Performance of 4 or 6 handed dentistry
- Each patient is ready to receive treatment when Dr. gets to chair
  - charts open and in sight or the computer chart is visible
  - instruments, supplies, and radiographs/images well organized chairside
- Sufficient instruments available to treat a full morning's or afternoon's patient load; thereby eliminating delays while instruments are sterilized
- Use of disposables, e.g., chair drapes, handle covers, suction tips, trays or tray covers, etc.
- Adequate sterilization capacity and standardized procedures
  - recessed ultrasonic
  - autoclave, chemiclave, kavoclave, dishwasher
- Use of quick release handpieces
- Use of two 2-way air/water syringes
- Automatic faucets at all sinks
- Use of one-handed sheath prop (Practishield)
- Sturdy, preferably-mounted containers for masks, gloves, chair covers, etc.
- Use of disposable prophy angles and a variety of other disposables
- Built-in hookups at all chairs for nitrous oxide and oxygen
- Two-way radios for staff use between business and clinical areas
- Dentist's dictation of charting to be recorded by a clinical auxiliary on the spot or transposed later by a business auxiliary
- Designate a Clinical Coordinator, an experienced, skilled dental assistant to act as "traffic director", answer questions, be hands #5 and 6 if needed at chair, order supplies, interact with the lab, etc. One senior assistant can fill this role, or it can rotate between experienced assistants by the week or month.