

TOP TEN TRAVEL COMPANIES

FOR THE YEAR 2013

02/01/2013

A NEW YEAR... A NEW TOP TEN LIST!

Back in 2004, Epstein decided to rate travel nursing companies according to the benefits that they provided nurses. Since then it has evolved from benefits only, to nurses voting, to the current system of travel nurses evaluating the travel companies.

A few years ago, the travel companies must have had updated benefits, this year they must have had an updated profile. Also this year's qualifications included having at least 5 evaluations. Next year the minimum number

of evaluations will be increased to 10 evaluations.

Related to the renewal of profiles (interviews) and the minimum of 5 evaluations... there are some new faces on the top ten!

Unfortunately, Travel Nurse across American, Talemед, Freedom Healthcare, Pro-Med Staffing, and Trinity Healthcare have dropped off of the Top Ten with many of them in the Honorable Mention group.

Health Providers Choice, OneStaff Medical, TotalMed Staffing, and PPR all make the top ten list for the first time!

At the end of this document, you will find that our number 3 company last year, has made it the top... Number One!

Although this list includes companies that we, Highway Hypodermics, feel are some of the best, there are plenty other great companies out there!



Travel Nurse Approved!

NUMBER 10 - PPR TRAVEL NURSING

PPR is a medium sized company that places RNs nationwide. They top priority is customer service. Their recruiters are trained to answer many questions regarding other departments and keeps their recruiter to nurse ration manageable. This enables their recruiters to give 100% service to each nurse. They are Joint Commission certified and belong to NATHO.

They are very fortunate to have Dr. Ruth Stiehl, Vice President, Clinical Quality on our staff. Dr. Stiehl is available during business hours. Recruiters and nurses typically know right away if it will be a good match

for the two of them. If a nurse ever feels that she would prefer another recruiter in the company, she is able to reach out to the Recruitment Manager to discuss working with another recruiter.

PPR offers three plans through Aetna for their health insurance, dental is through Guardian, and Comp Benefits provides vision coverage. Their 401k is with Nationwide, the nurse is eligible at 6 months of employment and she/he is immediately vested at that time. PPR matches fifty cent on the dollar up to 6%. Other benefits include: life insurance, short and long term disability, professional

insurance, online shopping store, \$1000 referral bonuses for any specialty.

PPR always does the right thing for the nurses. Their motto has never changed, "We Put You First." Their recruiters have a long tenure with PPR and their knowledge in the business ensures that they are strong nurse advocates.

www.pprtravelnursing.com



NUMBER 8 (TIE) - VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Valley Healthcare Systems is a medium sized company that provides RNs to all 50 states. They survey all of their travelers throughout their assignment (week 2 and week 9) so that they know what they are doing well and where they need to improve to better support the nurse on their assignment. We also provide a concierge, available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. A clinical nurse liaison is available 24 hours a day. They are Joint Commission certified and are members of NATHO.

They provide medical insurance through Essential StaffCare

(Division of Blue Shield). Coverage for the nurse is free, and vision and dental can be added for \$7 per week. Valley offers a Simple IRA. Matching depends on company year-end profitability. Other benefits include free continuing education units.

Valley Healthcare System's mission is to provide an easy and pleasant experience for the traveler. Every traveler receives a welcome kit complete with "hoodie" and scrubs, and a welcome letter that includes the CEO's mobile phone number that they can use for any issue - and it will be addressed imme-

diately. They are all wholly committed to the traveler in providing quality clinical care and also do everything in our power to remove any of the burdensome tasks that would otherwise make their assignment unpleasant.

Valley will do whatever it takes to make the travel assignment easy and enjoyable. They do not want a traveler to work one assignment - they want a relationship that leads to years of assignments.

www.vhcsystems.com



NUMBER 8 (TIE) - AYA HEALTHCARE

At Aya Healthcare, they offer numerous opportunities for healthcare professionals. They are experts in travel nursing and local contract placements. Aya Healthcare staffs nationwide and have territory managers who diligently work to help secure you a job in an ideal location. They also have strong client relationships and often gets jobs not seen by their competitors.

Aya Healthcare is a large company broken down into several specialized teams allowing them to focus on each individual healthcare provider throughout the cycle of their assignment. They are a privately held company that holds itself accountable to its nurses.

Aya Healthcare understands that each healthcare provider makes a difference to their patients and they want to make that same positive difference in the lives of their employees. They have specialized recruiters and customer service representatives to ensure that healthcare providers working with Aya have a positive experience doing that they love. They understand that the way they care for you makes a difference in your life and they strive to go above and beyond to provide a remarkable employment experience. They have customer service representatives who specialize in each step of the travel experience. From onboarding to certifications & li-

censing, to benefits and payroll, you can always be confident that you will have a knowledgeable representative available to answer any of your questions or concerns. In addition, to ensure timeliness and personal service, each healthcare provider is assigned a dedicated Customer Service Representative. They want to get to know you and they feel the best way to do so, is making sure that you always have access to a friendly, familiar representative, who knows your unique travel history which allows them to serve you in the best way possible.

www.ayatransnursingjobs.com



NUMBER 7 - TOTALMED STAFFING

TotalMed
STAFFING

TotalMed Staffing Travel Division specializes in 4 to 26 week travel assignments for Registered Nurses, Dialysis Technicians, Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants all over the United States. On average, the typical travel assignment for a healthcare professional is 13 weeks in length. TotalMed feels there is no substitute for honest, caring relationships. Patients know it. You know it. That is why TotalMed Staffing strives to engage in genuine relationships. Your professional goals in healthcare drive them to find the right healthcare staffing solution for you. Their dedicated experts in your specific field take time to get to know you, your experience, your aspirations and your personality. They take pride in providing an individually personalized service

and finding the right solution that meets your requirements for pay, benefits, employer support, or whatever else you may need. No matter what the employment opportunity, from local staffing to travel staffing, they match the right people with the nation's top healthcare organizations.

TotalMed Staffing is a medium-sized, minority-owned and privately owned healthcare staffing agency that offers flexible staffing solutions such as: per diem, local contract, travel nursing, contract-to-hire, and direct placement. In addition, they have recruitment experts in allied health, scientific, insurance, and healthcare financial services. Being that TotalMed Staffing is a medium sized company it allows their recruiters to spend quality time getting to know their nurses

they work with and also allows the one on one interaction between the nurse and their recruiter.

TotalMed prides themselves on genuine relationships and currently walks in their travelers to each assignment if it is at a new client or local to Wisconsin, Illinois or Minnesota which not only helps them get acclimated to the facility and unit but also helps us educate the traveler of the environment they are going to be working at. They understand a relationship starts with listening. Contact TotalMed Staffing today. A professional healthcare staffing recruiter is ready to talk about your employment needs.

www.totalmedstaffing.com



NUMBER 6 - ONESTAFF MEDICAL

OneStaff Medical is a medium sized company that places RNs as well as Allied Health modalities. They staff nurses and allied workers nationwide.

To assure personal service, they hire only experienced recruiters that focus on customer services instead of just sales. Their clinical nurse liaison is only available during normal business hours. They are Joint Commission certi-

fied, and do regular evaluations with RN's to ensure the fit is still good for all parties.

OneStaff's medical insurance is through Blue Cross / Blue Shield with dental and vision provided through Met Life. At this time they have a 4% dollar for dollar match in our 401K. Company match is after 1 year of service. Another great benefit is the paid private apartments.

They make a difference related to their experience. They consist of experienced recruiters that started with other firms. Their average recruiter has been in the industry at least 5 years.

www.onestaffmedical.com

NUMBER 5 - IPI TRAVEL

IPI specializes in RN's and Rehab, Nurse Practitioners and Pharmacist. They have nationwide assignments, and they are available in most cities.

IPI is a privately owned and operated mid-western company, they are medium in size but huge in heart and customer service. They are a direct reflection of many years of hard work and dedication. IPI treats each traveler as a unique individual.

IPI has a phone number that their nurses can call in the middle of the night and weekends. They realize that they are your lifeline and once they receive your page they try to contact the nurses as soon as possible. A clinical nurse liaison is also available as needed.

Personalities are key and not everyone clicks. They have an open door teamwork policy. If the traveler isn't clicking with the staffing specialist, they are more than welcome to give the president a call, and she will take care of it promptly. If you found the right recruiter, give IPI a call and they will find the right fit!

From the president: On many occasions I have been asked the question "Why should I choose IPI Travel?" I don't have to think twice when I answer this question; IPI is a direct reflection of many years of hard work and dedication. We treat each traveler as a unique individual. Customizing each travel assignment, asking the question "what are you looking for in an assignment" These are the principles IPI Trav-

el has maintained since 1999. To this day we demand continued excellence from all of IPI's internal staff as well as our travelers. Our goal is for each of our customers to have a feeling of "Wow" when interacting with the IPI team. great demand; this is why we are committed to making your travel assignment rewarding and hassle-free. I will personally guarantee your assignment will be everything we promised. For questions regarding IPI Travel or comments please feel free to call.

IPI's values our travelers, and work every day to improve our processes and service. Just doing isn't good enough, being the best is what we strive for.

www.ipitravel.com



NUMBER 4 - PRCS

PRCS is a mid-sized staffing firm, which equates to more competitive pay packages for their travelers. They offer RN, RT and rehab assignments nationally, including Hawaii and the USVI.

Being a mid size firm owned and operated by previous healthcare travelers, PRCS prides itself in caring for and knowing their travelers. Many of their travelers have been with them for years, some near a decade. Their travelers are a direct reflection of their firm and its quality. Their phones are answered 24/7, and they have a clinical liaison that is available. They have been a Joint Commission certified company since May 2010.

Nurses are paired with a nurse recruiter dedicated to their clinical specialty. They also account for gender and personal-

ity preferences when assigning recruiters.

PRCS has outstanding United health, dental and vision benefit packages offered to travelers, with custom package options. They choose to offer more money to nurses as opposed to putting money to 401k. This allows the nurse to allot additional money to his/her already established 401k or IRA accounts. Other benefits include: referral bonuses, license and certification reimbursements. round-trip travel reimbursement.

What makes PRCS different? (1)They have been in business since 1981 (long standing), (2) They are Joint Commission certified with quality standards, (3) PRCS is owned and operated by previous healthcare clinicians which familiar with clinical settings and travel staffing. They

understand the environment nurses work in, and the challenges they face caring for patients in a high stress environment, (4)They are a mid-size and can offer the most competitive pay packages. (5)PRCS knows and cares for our travelers. As a result, our business has been established largely by referrals from happy employees.

Their motto at PRCS is "Work hard, Play Hard". They are committed to working hard for their travelers and playing hard to have some fun with them!

www.prcshealthcare.com



NUMBER 3 - PREMIER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



Premier Healthcare
Professionals

PHP has numerous openings for RN's, LPN's, OT's, ST's and PT's throughout the 50 States. They offer Nationwide assignments through PHP and its subsidiary Bridge Staffing. They can also offer International assignments (when available) through their company owned offices in England, Australia and South Africa.

The level of care and support provided to their healthcare professionals is their major focus. Most of PHP's staff have worked for the company for over 12 years and they believe that they have built up a vast experience on how their healthcare professionals should expect to be treated. They understand that their healthcare professionals are human and each have personal targets and person-

alities. Their healthcare professionals are each assigned to a personal recruiter who is trained to both recognize and adapt to each of their clinical colleagues being different and having varying requirements. The management of PHP review and discuss all communication with their professionals that is stored on their company's database. Management also makes itself readily available to all healthcare professionals should any issues arise. They truly believe that are business is special and so do all of the professionals that continue to trust in us through multiple assignments over several years. The facts are that they know what they are doing....they have been doing the same thing for 25 years. Their staff are some of the

most experienced in the industry. On average each of them has been employed by PHP for over 10 years. They place in all 50 States in the USA and internationally. On top of all of this they have won numerous awards within the industry for their pay and service standards. Not many staffing companies can boast all of this.

Apart from all of the outstanding service standards that you can expect, PHP will never be beaten on a genuine pay or benefits package. They recognize that healthcare professionals have a choice when it comes to staffing companies. They simply have to offer the best packages in order to grow and flourish.

www.travelphp.com

NUMBER 2 - HEALTH PROVIDERS CHOICE



Health Providers Choice is a mid-sized private owned company held corporation, which offers Registered Nurses (RNs) throughout the United States and Canada, travel, local contract, and per-diem positions. They place all specialties. HPC was nurse founded in 2001 and remains nurse owned and operated.

They pride ourselves on living their mission and their values. They honor each person in their organization and because of their commitment there are no numbers, everyone is a very important professional in their organization. They take time to build mutually beneficial relationships with the nurses they partner with as well as their clients. As a nurse owned and operated organization, the value of their nurses is inherent in the HPC Culture. Health Providers Choice understands and appreciates the challenges and rewards of providing patient care and they strive to help with the challenge

and consistently find ways to help make it as rewarding as possible. From the introduction of their organization throughout your employment you will receive a personal and high touch experience. It is through the relationships their recruiters have with the employees they serve that earned Health Providers Choice bragging rights in the travel nurse industry. Greater than 65% of all nurses working with Health Providers Choice refer at least one colleague.

Health Providers Choice takes great care in the selection process of their recruitment team. All of their recruiters have long tenures in the healthcare industry working either as a nurse, an allied professional, or healthcare recruiter. They are well educated in the industry and the roles they are recruiting for which allows for great synergy early in the process. Also, all of HPC's recruiters are a testament to the corporate

mission and value structure which allows for a mutually respectful partnership between themselves and the nurses they serve. Strong relationships are essential for their success. Health Providers Choice highlights their recruitment team on their website and each recruiter has a personal information page to allow nurses to review the team and find the best fit. Nurses working for Health Providers Choice can choose to change recruiters at anytime if they wish to experience a new relationship within their company.

At Health Provider Choice their mission is to exceed the service and quality expectations of their customers, the community, the professionals they employ and themselves. They are true to this mission and are always excited to have another industry professional join them in successfully executing it.

www.hpcnursing.com

NUMBER 1 - FLEXCARE MEDICAL STAFFING

FlexCare Medical Staffing specializes in contracting Registered Nurses, who have at least one year of current RN experience, in acute care facilities throughout the nation. Typical contract lengths vary from 4-26 weeks. On most occasions their travelers extend for multiple assignments at the same hospital and many eventually turn their travel assignment into a fulltime position. They feel, if the nurse likes his/her assignment so much that they decide to extend and/or go on fulltime, that is further proof that they are matching RN's up to the right jobs and right facilities.

FlexCare Medical Staffing places RN's nationwide, including Hawaii and Alaska,

and currently holds contracts with some of the largest hospital chains throughout the nation including HCA, Kaiser Permanente, Dignity Health (formerly Catholic Healthcare West). Tenet Healthcare, Texas Health, and Florida Hospitals.

FlexCare has the job availability of a large company with the service of a small company. Having never advertised, FlexCare has built a company primarily off of referrals from other current working FlexCare travel RNs. You will be treated as not just a name, but also as a colleague and a friend.

One of the key differences between FlexCare and most other travel nursing companies is the fact that your re-

cruiter at FlexCare is your sole point of contact. Your recruiter is responsible for handling every detail of your assignment, whether that is payroll, insurance, travel, housing, etc. Your recruiter has a very intimate knowledge of every piece of your assignment and always has a vested interest making your travel assignment all it can possibly be. If there is ever an issue while on assignment, your recruiter will be there to provide you with the most efficient solution as quick as possible. There is never the need to get transferred between multiple departments within FlexCare, because your recruiter is your sole point of contact for all of these things.

www.flexcarestaff.com



HIGHWAY HYPODERMICS: TRAVEL NURSING 2015

Since 2003 Epstein and the Highway Hypodermics series has brought the most up to date information to traveling nurses, staffing recruiters, and travel nursing company executives. Time for a new rewrite! Yes, that's true! The new edition of Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2015 will be all new!

The last edition not only took you down the path of finding a great travel company and an awesome assignment, but delves into the finer things of travel nursing including: steps to being a travel nursing for foreign trained nurses, traveling in an RV, traveling as an OT, PT, SLP, or LPN, home-schooling while traveling, independent contracting, and what the

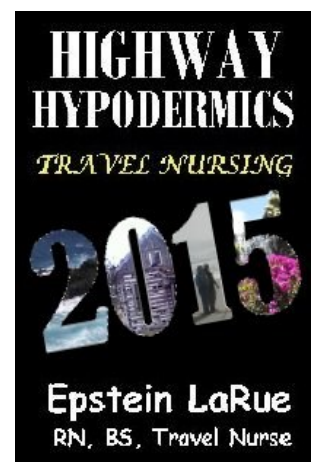
nursing license company really means. New topics in this edition includes new testing (PBDS & BKAT), standards groups (JCAHO & NATHO), and traveling with a pet.

The writing world calls her Epstein, but reality calls her "Kay." She has been a nurse since 1992 and was first published in 2001. "Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2015" is the fifth book in her travel nursing series.

Not only was she chosen as one of the traveling nurses of the year in 2005, but her travel nursing books have received top awards. The 2007 & 2012 versions reached number one on Amazon's best seller list in Nursing Trends, Issues, and Roles. The

2005 version was a finalist in the USABooksNews' annual awards, with the 2009 version winning the medical reference category in 2010.

Epstein has jumped back into the world of travel nursing, specializing in House Supervisor. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Travel Education Group, which produces the Travelers Convention each fall in Las Vegas. In fact, Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2015 will make its first appearance at the 2014 Travelers Conference.





HIGHWAY HYPODERMICS®

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FASTAFF

www.fastaff.com

RTG MEDICAL

www.rtgmedical.com

MEDICAL STAFFING NETWORK

www.msnhealth.com

	COMPANY NAME	BENEFIT SCORE	EVALUATION SCORE	TOTAL SCORE
1	Flexcare Medical Staffing	21	18.6	39.6
2	Health Providers Choice	21	18.2	39.2
3	Premier Healthcare Professionals	20	19	39
4	PRCS	20	18.9	38.9
5	IPI Travel	20	18.5	38.5
6	OneStaff Medical	20	18.4	38.4
7	TotalMed Staffing	20	18.3	38.3
8	Aya Healthcare	21	16.6	37.6
8	Valley Healthcare Systems	21	16.6	37.6
10	PPR Travel Nursing	18	17.5	35.5
11	Travel Nurse across America	18	16.8	34.8
12	Talemed	18	16.3	34.3
13	Medical Solutions	17	16.9	33.9
14	RN Network	18	15.8	33.8
15	RTG Medical	17	16.3	33.3
16	Trinity Healthcare	16	17.1	33.1
17	Freedom Healthcare	16	16.4	32.4
18	The Right Solutions	14	17.4	31.4
19	Fastaff	14	17.3	31.3
20	Medical Staffing Network (MSN)	17	14.1	31.1