

HIGHWAY HYPODERMICS®

# TOP TEN TRAVEL COMPANIES

FOR THE YEAR 2013

02/01/2013

**TOP TEN**  
Travel Nursing  
Companies



*The benefits and evaluation point chart can be found at the end of this document.*

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

In the challenging world of travel nursing it's time to honor those travel companies who provide the best of benefits to traveling nurses, along with exceptional service.

There are three important aspects to this award: the companies' benefits, the informational interview, and how the traveling nurses evaluate the company.

Nurses were polled regarding which benefits they looked for in a traveling company, and then an inquiry was made to each company as to whether or not they provided those benefits.

To help nurses further understand what the individual travel companies were all about she had each company fill out an interview form, in which each company was then spotlighted for a full month on the Highway Hypodermics website.

Each company who provided an interview was placed on a list in which the number of benefits was added to the evaluations of that company.

For the first year in quite a while. There are NO ties this year! There are 10 top companies with 10 honorable mentions.

While Cirrus Medical Staffing, HRN, and Nurses in Partnership slip off of the Top Ten, Flexcare, Valley Medical Staffing, and Trinity Healthcare jockey for new positions.

PRCS, IPI Travel, Nationwide Nurses, Talemmed, Freedom Healthcare and Pro-Med Staffing hold on to top ten positions also this year.

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

**PRO+MED**

## NUMBER 10 - PRO-MED STAFFING

Pro-Med Staffing is dedicated to serving your best interest whether that may be career aspirations, location choice, or making sure that your achievements are recognized and rewarded appropriately. Therefore, they will work with you every day in every way to insure that your goals and dreams are met.

Since they realize that everyone is different they try to be attentive to those differences when targeting the right position for you. They try to get to know each and every

one personally so they can customize their benefit program to meet your needs.

When dealing with Pro-Med you can have confidence in knowing that you are working with people of integrity who care and are sensitive and competent to work for you. An added benefit is that they are small enough to give you lots of individual attention, which includes being able to talk directly with the owner or the Human Resources Director. They can and have turned applications around 24 to 72 hours.

Their home office is in Phoenix, Arizona and they have successfully placed R.N.'s in fifteen different states. Pro-Med has been a member of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) for over eight years.

For more information you can contact them at Pro-Med Staffing, Inc., P.O. Box 51855, Phoenix, AZ 85076, local Phoenix # 480-496-7111, toll-free # 800-980-9070, website [www.pro-medstaffing.com](http://www.pro-medstaffing.com).



## NUMBER 9 - FREEDOM HEALTHCARE

Freedom Healthcare Staffing (FreedomHCS) offers temporary travel assignments from four to thirteen weeks in duration all over the United States. Typically, a response from the hospital is within two to three business days; some hospitals are quicker with a response and some are slower. The important thing, for them, is to advise the Healthcare traveler on their experience on working with a particular hospital and to set realistic expectations for the turnaround time on an interview and ultimately an offer of a position.

One of their core values is to treat their Healthcare travel-

ers with respect. Although they are a small company, Freedom Healthcare Staffing was established by executives from the hospital and staffing industry. It is very important to their president, as well as every member of Freedom Healthcare staffing, that their Healthcare travelers have a rewarding experience, both intrinsically and monetarily, while working with their company.

Freedom Healthcare Staffing stands behind their Healthcare Travelers! Many companies pay "lip service" to this value, but this is also at the heart of their interaction with

their nurses. In fact, there are hospital clients they will no longer do business with due to their perceived treatment of their Healthcare travelers.

It is their goal to make every experience with Freedom Healthcare Staffing rewarding. They also specialize in the "hand-holding" sometimes needed for first-time travelers, and for that matter, anyone else who needs some extra emotional support while on the road. Please visit them at [www.freedomhcs.com](http://www.freedomhcs.com) or give them a call at 866-463-0385. They can be found at: 2600 S. Parker Road, Suite 6-360, Denver, CO 80014.



## NUMBER 8 - VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Valley Healthcare Systems specialize in travel nurse assignments nationwide, as well as local per diem/registry. They can have you placed within 4 days for a travel assignment and 2 days for per diem / registry.

They have 325 nurses, and each of their nurses are treated as though they were their only nurse, and they have a night nurse on call 24 hours per day and reachable via phone. You will never get an answering service.

Benefits include paid medical benefits, 401(k), direct deposit, weekly paychecks, fully furnished private housing/housing allowance, airfare to and from your assignment or a travel allowance and a rental car. They provide top-notch professional and general liability insurance that is A+ rated.

They pay higher than their competitors and still offer a personal touch from start to finish. Their nurses stay with them, and I do

mean stay with them! Their average length of tenure is close to four continuous contracts.

For more information they can be contacted at Valley Healthcare Systems Inc 11290 Pyrites Way Suite 200A, Gold River, CA 95670. Their phone number is 800-953-0508, and their website can be found at [www.vhcsystems.com](http://www.vhcsystems.com).



## NUMBER 7—NATIONWIDE NURSES

Nationwide Medical Staffing (NWMS) provides RNs and LPNs with ultimate personal service, unmatched in the nurse and allied health travel industry.

They are a smaller company, by choice, so they can focus on their nurses' individual needs and concerns. They have been there for their employees for all kinds of needs. For instance, last year they had a nurse working in Arizona and his family

was in Florida during the horrible hurricane season. They hired a moving van, packed their personal belongings and relocated his family to Arizona to be with him so he would not have to leave his assignment or worry about the safety of his family. Another nurse's home had been broken into while he was away working in North Mexico. They relocated his family to a safe motel and had all of the locks

changed in his home. Peace of mind is priceless for their travelers, and they go above and beyond, at no cost to the nurse.

They are located at Haskell, OK and Harrison, AR, P.O. Box 157, Haskell, OK 74436. They can be phoned at 866-836-8773. Their website is located at [www.nationwidenurses.com](http://www.nationwidenurses.com).

## NUMBER 6 - TALEMED

TaleMed offers a wealth of traveling nurse employment opportunities all across the country. From friendly towns to exciting bustling metropolitan centers, they can place you in the locations and nursing jobs that you have always dreamed of, and from the community facility to the prestigious teaching hospital they can find the professional environment that's just right for you. TaleMed reaches into all 50 states, offering a wealth of traveling nurse job opportunities, and they can have you ready to go between 24 hours and 4 days for a nurse that is ready to work and has completed all the necessary de-

tails prior to submitting to a hospital.

They are a small company. You are absolutely 100% treated as a name, and they will be on a first-name basis with you. As a nurse and as their employee, you are their number one priority. You have access to their personal cell phone numbers. They also have a "hotline" of somebody on call each night. It is critical to them that you know that they are available at all times for you.

They offer paid benefits that start from day one. This includes medical, dental, AD&D, life and prescription coverage. They also have made available short and long term disability. 401K is also available. 100% of your malpractice is covered by TaleMed.

At TaleMed, they understand that traveling to the leading hospitals and exciting locations is a big attraction to the job. The new challenges and new opportunities to grow in your profession are just as important. They have listened, and they've built a company that works hard for you and your dreams.

At TaleMed you don't work for them; they work for you. TaleMed is built on experience and knowledge in the medical field. With over 75 years of experience supporting their goal and service, they make you their number one priority.

For more information you can contact them at 403 Loveland Madeira Road, Loveland, Oh 45140, or talk to them at 800-494-0087. They can be found online at [www.talemed.com](http://www.talemed.com).



## NUMBER 5 - TRINITY HEALTHCARE

"I couldn't find a staffing company that kept its promises. So I started one," Matt Floyd, R.N, Founder, President, and CEO says.

As a former traveling critical care nurse, Matt had become all too familiar with the infuriating drill: Showing up to bewildered looks instead of secured housing; paychecks that rarely landed in his hands on time, and when they did, were routinely for reduced or inaccurate amounts; and perhaps worst of all, there was never anywhere or anyone to turn to seek counsel from or just sympathize with him. Trinity

Healthcare was born out of that frustration. Matt founded the company in 1999 around a very simple idea: *Doing what we say we'll do.* That translates into offering medical facilities higher quality healthcare professionals, and offering healthcare professionals a company that keeps its promises.

Trinity is a national company offering travel assignments all across the country, with per diem staffing available through their branch offices.

In 2004 Trinity was named on the Inc. 500 list for being one of the fastest grow-

ing privately owned companies in the country, as well as being recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in South Carolina in 2003 and 2004.

Trinity is a JCAHO certified company that offers the following benefits to their travel nurses: major medical, dental, vision, prescription drug coverage along with life insurance of \$25,000, workman's compensation, general liability insurance, professional liability insurance, 401K, completion bonuses for quite a few assignments, and an unlimited general referral bonus. You receive all of



ADJUST YOUR EXPECTATIONS

this, in addition to one of the highest pay packages in the industry. While their employees are covered by Trinity, they are rather conservative and of the belief that one can never have too much professional liability insurance. So give us a call and let us help you help others, like the unique specialists you are.

For more information, contact them at 1834 Sally Hill Farms Blvd., P.O. Box 5955, Florence, SC 29501, 8 7 7 - 4 1 7 - 9 5 0 7 , [www.TrinityHSG.com](http://www.TrinityHSG.com).

## NUMBER 4— INNOVATIVE PLACEMENTS (IPI TRAVEL)

IPI Travel has unlimited career opportunities in 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. They are Joint Commission Certified and offer very competitive benefits. IPI staffs nursing, rehab and allied professionals and they do staffing in all of the United States and Puerto Rico.

Each travel assignment is customized to fit the traveler's need: single housing, 2 bedrooms, cats, dogs, kids. They would like each of their employees to be treated like they would want to be treated. This is the golden rule we were taught while growing up. Personal service, high standards, and above-and-beyond expectations are

items they strive for on a daily basis. You name it; they do it!

The heart and soul their staff puts into the company on a daily basis makes IPI Travel not just another "travel nurse" company. IPI Travel offers all the standard benefits, and more. The difference is that their recruiters are passionate; they live travel nursing on a daily basis, with its highs and lows. IPI offers customized assignments. They believe your assignment should be not just good, but great!

On a daily basis, they interact with many different individuals, from the check-out lady at Wal-Mart to the

CEO of a major hospital corporation. With each person the president speaks with, the one thing that remains in her mind is how each person affected them. Did the service received or given go above and beyond expectations? These are the principles Innovative Placements has maintained since 1999.

In addition to all the services IPI offers, they also continue to develop client relationships throughout the United States, giving their travelers a huge network of resources and the flexibility for unlimited travel assignment choices. Each assignment is custom-designed around the traveler.



IPI Travel understands that healthcare professionals are in great demand; that is why they are committed to making your travel assignment rewarding and hassle-free. They guarantee that your assignment will be everything they promised. For questions regarding IP Travel or comments please feel free to call. Happy Traveling!

For more information, you can find them at 14701 Cumberland Road, Suite 140, Noblesville, IN 46060. You may also call them at 800-322-9796. Their website can be found at [www.ipitravel.com](http://www.ipitravel.com)



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 that if you like your assignment so much that you 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 has the job availability of a large company with

## NUMBER 3 - FLEXCARE

the service of a small company. One of the key differences between FlexCare and most other travel nursing companies is the fact that your recruiter 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.

Every FlexCare recruiter provides their RN's with their cell phone numbers directly. They have found many RN's to prefer to be contacted by text message if it is something minimal. So having the ability to connect cell phone to cell phone is crucial. Flexcare's travelers receive genuine full support from their recruiter 24/7.

FlexCare creates 100% customizable pay packages for their RN's. You as an RN tell them what you need provided in your pay package and they will create a pay package that best suits your needs.

They have relationships with RN's that have spanned years and even decades. They truly have friendships with their RN's, along with the hospitals they staff; they don't just do business over the phone. They take every opportunity to meet their RN's face to face, whether that is a FlexCare sponsored Meet and Greet, Travel Nurse Conventions, or just lunch! Additionally, our Account Managers make monthly visits to our key hospitals, meeting with hiring managers to strengthen our relationships.

Flexcare is not your run of the mill staffing agency. They are a group of dedicated Nurse Centric folks that enjoy and value the relationships they have fostered with nurses across the country. They realize there are a lot of choices in agencies these days and we take pride in the fact we approach the industry in a unique way. They are focused on the long-term success of their nurses, employees, and business; not short-term gains. This long-term focus emphasizes the importance of a company culture that values lasting relationships built on honesty and integrity

For more information, you can contact them at: 990 Reserve Drive Ste, 250, Roseville, CA 95678, 1-866-564-3589 or visit them at [www.flexcarestaff.com](http://www.flexcarestaff.com)



## NUMBER 2 - PRCS HEALTHCARE

PRCS offers travel assignments to Registered Nurses and Respiratory Therapists nationwide, with their focus on the great southwest: Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Hawaii. Depending on the traveler's availability and timeframe, PRCS can process a nurse's application and get the nurse working in about a week.

Personal service is an absolute with them! PRCS is locally owned and managed by a healthcare clinician. Their travel manager is also a healthcare clinician. They have offices in Phoenix & Las Vegas. Their telephones are answered 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Their travelers and hospital clients can reach them at any time.

Even their managers are available to address issues around the clock.

PRCS is a small organization. Their owner and travel manager are both healthcare clinicians. They pride themselves in getting to know their nurses and therapists on an individual basis. They treat all of their nurses as individuals with specific personalities, needs, and attention.

PRCS offers top pay, guaranteed hours, uncapped travel reimbursement, licensure reimbursement, free private furnished housing, completion bonuses, and a benefit package from the first day of assignment. The professional liability insurance they provide is sufficient to cover their traveling profession-

als. A great benefit to Canadian-educated nurses is that PRCS will reimburse the cost of your NCLEX exam.

PRCS is unique in that they are owned and managed by healthcare clinicians and that they are local. Their travelers will personally know them and receive the personal attention they deserve. They value and appreciate their nurses and look forward to continuous working with them!

For more information you can write to them at Professional Respiratory Care Services Inc., 3801 N. 24th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016 or phone them at 602-508-0100. Their website is located at [www.prcshealthcare.com](http://www.prcshealthcare.com).

## NUMBER 1 - PREMIER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Premier Healthcare Professionals Inc. (PHP) is part of a large group of companies, specializing in the placement of nurses and other healthcare professionals around the world. PHP is JCAHO accredited.

The PHP group has been placing nurses in the US for nearly two decades. It has clients in all 50 States and they range in size from large hospital associations to smaller community type hospitals. PHP staff understands the professional and personal requirements of each of their nurses, and furthermore they fully respect each and every one of those requirements. Most members of their recruitment and placement staff

have worked with the PHP Group for more than 10 years and are fully aware of the importance of their nurses' personal satisfaction. They are very proud of the fact that over 85% of their new inquiries originate from referrals from past or present working nurses.

In addition to providing unparalleled service standards to their nurses, they also boast the most flexible benefits package available in the market today. They allow all of their nurses to choose from a menu of benefits and pay rates to match their own personal requirements. They guarantee to at least match any legitimate pay and benefits package available in the

marketplace today. Their nurses appreciate the personal service and pay and benefits that they offer to them and this is evidenced by the fact that some of their nurses have been contracted with their group companies for almost a decade.

The PHP group has company-owned offices in London, Sydney and Johannesburg, and it is from these offices that it also places nurses throughout the UK, Australia and South Africa.

For more information contact Premier Healthcare Professionals, 2450 Atlanta Hwy, Suite 601, Cumming, GA 30040, Phone: (866) 296 3247, Fax: (866) 666 2622, or visit their website at



Premier Healthcare  
Professionals



## HIGHWAY HYPODERMICS: TRAVEL NURSING 2012

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.

This edition not only takes 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

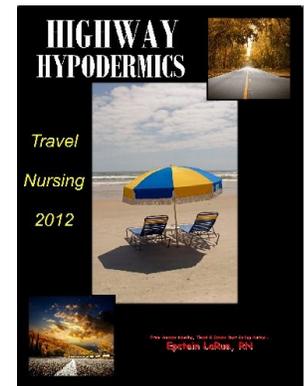
what the nursing license company really means. New topics in this edition includes new testing (PBDS & BKAT), standards groups (JCAHO & NATHO), and traveling with a pet. Plus there are over forty new stories from other nurses.

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 2012" is the fourth 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 Critical Access hospitals. You can meet her in person every year in October at the yearly Travel Medical Professionals Convention in Las Vegas, NV.





HIGHWAY HYPODERMICS®

PO Box 77  
1416 S. Main Street  
Grace, Idaho 83241  
highwayhypo@yahoo.com

TRAVEL NURSES MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE...

ONE HOSPITAL AT A TIME.

## HONORABLE MENTION

CIRRUS MEDICAL STAFFING  
[www.cirrusmedicalstaffing.com](http://www.cirrusmedicalstaffing.com)

CURASTAT HEALTHCARE  
[www.curastat.com](http://www.curastat.com)

HRN SERVICES  
[www.hrnservices.com](http://www.hrnservices.com)

BRIDGE STAFFING  
[www.bridgestaffing.com](http://www.bridgestaffing.com)

PPR HEALTHCARE  
[www.pprhealthcare.com](http://www.pprhealthcare.com)

TG HEALTHCARE  
[www.tghealthcare.com](http://www.tghealthcare.com)

TOTALMED STAFFING  
[www.totalmedstaffing.com](http://www.totalmedstaffing.com)

TRAVEL NURSE ACROSS AMERICA  
[www.nurse.tv](http://www.nurse.tv)

STRATEGIC HEALTHCARE  
[www.strategicnurse.com](http://www.strategicnurse.com)

RN NETWORK  
[www.rnnetwork.com](http://www.rnnetwork.com)

Travel Company	Benefits	Evals	Total
Premier Healthcare Professionals	21	19.5	40.5
PRCS	20	20.0	40.0
Flexcare Medical	21	18.8	39.8
IPI Travel	20	18.3	38.3
Trinity Healthcare Staffing	18	20.0	38.0
Talemed	21	16.8	37.8
Nationwide Nurses	18	19.5	37.5
Valley Healthcare Systems	21	16.5	37.5
Freedom Healthcare	21	16.4	37.4
Pro-Med Staffing	18	19.2	37.2
Cirrus Medical Staffing	20	17.1	37.1
Curastat	17	20.0	37.0
HRN	17	19.5	36.5
Bridge Staffing	17	19.3	36.3
PPR Travel	18	17.5	35.5
Tech Group (TG Healthcare)	17	18.4	35.4
Total Med Staffing	17	18.0	35.0
Travel Nurse Across America	18	16.6	34.6
Strategic Healthcare Staffing	18	16.5	34.5
RN Network	18	16.2	34.2