

# 2006 TOP TEN TRAVEL NURSING COMPANIES

By Highway Hypodermics

## How The Top Ten Were Chosen

TOP TEN  
Travel Nursing  
Company



Look for this seal of excellence when you are looking for your next travel nursing company!

What a list this year! Three new companies join seven of the best of last year. A total of thirty-five companies provided a travel nursing interview and a list of the benefits for a chance at this elite list.

Yes, that is all the companies had to do is fill out a simple benefits questionnaire and a slightly more complicated interview questionnaire.

After all the travel companies were listed according to whom had filled out interviews, then each was ranked according to how many "syringes" they received on the ultimate list of travel nursing company benefits.

This year's rankings in-

clude companies that provide the top needs and wants of travel nurses.

After making a list of the top companies for each number of syringes, then a comparison was completed by ranking how well the companies answered their questions in the interview, and judged by Epstein and J.C. LaRue.

Benefits that these companies provide include health insurance that is free for the nurse with a minimal fee for the family, first day medical coverage, professional insurance, reimbursement for nurse licensing, private housing, corporate housing option, basic utilities, salaries over \$30, full

CEU reimbursement for required continuing education, 401K with 50% vested, completion bonus' on some assignments, JCAHO certification, weekly direct deposit, sick days without penalty, one month off between assignments without penalty, pre-employment screening, standard mileage reimbursement and rental car or stipend.

Once all the interviews for the year are schedule for the year, the top ten company list is compiled.

**In no way does advertising or any other monetary gain received from the this list of companies promote their ranking.**

## Number 10 – Nurses In Partnership



Nurses in Partnership not only covers 43 states, but they also have international offices in London England, Dublin Ireland and Sydney, Australia.

They are a medium sized company for the travel nursing Industry. They currently employ many Nurse Rn's who have worked with them for over 2 years. They receive many recommendations, especially for their

understanding of clinical competencies and how they relate to the travel nurse industry.

Some of their benefits include: Travel Allowance, Medical and Dental coverage from Day 1, 401K, License reimbursement, Education Reimbursement. Bonus Structure, increasing per assignment. Free Private Accommodation with Furniture, and pet friendly apartments.

Their knowledge of the industry makes them more than just another company. The top executives have been in the Industry for twenty plus years. Retention is therefore the key and in order to retain and therefore grow you have to offer a "Service" and you have to be accountable for that Service. The Nurse needs to feel that you have their best interests at heart, that

only happens if they are treated as a valued member of Staff, not just another Number. They care about their nurses!

For more information contact: Nurses In Partnership 28118 Agoura Road Agoura Hills, CA 91301, 800-978-8555, or visit their website at: [www.nipinc.com](http://www.nipinc.com)

## Number 9 – Mobile Medical Staffing

Mobile Medical Staffing (MMS) offer travel assignments across the country for Nurses, Radiologist, Surgical Techs and much more. They are contracted in all 50 states who has a 24 hour customer service line which is answered after hours by the CEO, which assists in getting the help needed by our travelers as simple as possible for the nurses. He speaks directly with the person able to make all final decisions and with the ability to "fix" whatever the problem may be.

MMS is a medium sized company. Large enough to have the contracts needed to get you where you'd like to travel to; yet small enough to

give the personalized attention that is not found in the largest companies. When traveling with MMS you work directly with your recruiter for all needs rather than needing to speak to individual departments. Your recruiter takes care of everything for you. Phone messages if it were necessary to leave one are answered with in the hour. You speak directly with your recruiter not their assistant.

MMS offers the personal approach. We are available to our travelers 24 hours a day. The CEO is easily accessible to our travelers as well. At MMS they care for and stand by their travelers. They get to know them on a personal level

and allow them get to know them as well.

At MMS they recognize that the traveler is the key to what they do. They are not an employee or number to them but instead the reason they are in business. They feel that they work for their travelers rather than them work for MMS.

You may contact them at: Mobile Medical Staffing, 5600 Kentshire Road, Suite 1, Kettering, OH 45440, 800-432-8050 or visit their website at: [www.mobilemedicalstaffing.com](http://www.mobilemedicalstaffing.com)



*"We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend."*

*Robert Louis Stephenson*

## Number 8 – Cirrus Medical Staffing

You can expect a professionally fulfilling adventure chocked with lifetime experiences! They have contracts throughout all 50 states and work with hospitals of all sizes and flavors. They won't stand for our travelers being limited, so they encourage our travelers to try them all. The adventure of exerting flexibility in a small hospital to crises driven adventures of Level I trauma centers allow our travelers to become a more seasoned professional. Cirrus travelers develop into the type of professional who has worked with various management styles and has the acquired talent to share with other facilities. The Cirrus adventure allows their travelers to remain true to their "calling"

without losing touch with himself/herself.

Cirrus Medical Staffing is extremely flexible and accommodating to their travelers. Enough to average over 80% retention rate consistently.

Cirrus contractually ensures that your hours are guaranteed through the facility which you are assigned. Furthermore, if you're sick or have an emergency, not only will you be supported by your Cirrus recruiter, you will be allowed to make up your lost time. If you're sent home for low census, you're still paid; however, they also arrange



for floating responsibilities to similar units so not to cause undue financial hardship for their travelers.

Cirrus Medical Staffing makes a difference in the fact that they give their travelers the individual attention that they need to perform their job successfully. We've been by their side to celebrate their joy and to support them through tragedy. They go the extra mile to ensure their travelers are safe, housed properly, supported with their issues, and treated with the respect that's deserved. Their travelers are treated as family members and served as their

most important asset (because they are).

They have travelers who have been with them since our company formed. These are experienced travelers who can attest to how well they treat them and how quickly they respond to their issues/concerns. Even those who have been disgruntled have returned because of how they treat their travelers. They do what they say they'll do and they're honest.

For more information contact: Cirrus Medical Staffing, 2725 Water Ridge Parkway, Suite 160, Charlotte, NC 28217, 800-299-8132 or visit their website at: [www.cirrusmedicalstaffing.com](http://www.cirrusmedicalstaffing.com)

## Number 7 – PRCS Healthcare

Professional Respiratory Care Services (PRCS) provides travel assignments to Registered Nurses and Respiratory Therapists nationwide, with their focus on the great southwest: Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, Hawaii.

PRCS is locally owned and managed by a healthcare clinician. Their travel manager is also a healthcare clinician. The corporate office is located in Phoenix, with a satellite office in Las Vegas.

PRCS offers travel assignments nationwide, but their focus remains on the southwest region. They do not offer international assignments but do employ international nurses.

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 telephones are answered 24 hrs/day, 365 days per year. Their travelers and hospital clients can reach them at anytime. Even their managers are available to address issues around the clock.

PRCS offer top pay, guaranteed hours, uncapped travel reimbursement, licensure reimbursement, free private furnished housing, completion bonuses, benefit package first day of assignment.

Depending on the travelers availability and timeframe, PRCS can process a nurses' application and get the nurse working in about a week.

PRCS travelers will personally know them and receive the personal attention they deserve. They value and appreciate their nurses and look forward to continue working with them!

For Canadian educated nurses, PRCS will reimburse the cost of your NCLEX exam.

Professional Respiratory Care Services Inc., 3801 N. 24th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016, 602-508-1000, or visit their website at [www.prcshealthcare.com](http://www.prcshealthcare.com)



*“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”*

*Helen Keller*

## Number 6 – Bridge Staffing

Bridge Staffing Inc (BSI) offers travel contracts Nationwide to travel professionals. RN's, LPN's, Tech's. Most of the contract openings they receive are for 13 week, but they also receive short term assignments at times.

All of the BSI recruiters work out of their home. This allows each of them to be more flexible in their working hours. When you are on the road, it is very important to be able to reach your recruiter when you need to. All of the recruiters at BSI take the time to get to know their travelers. They want you to be comfortable with them.

BSI ranks in the medium range. Their agency is based on "relationships". They take the time to get to know all of their travelers.

Each of their travelers have the numbers and email addresses to reach their recruiter, and they have a 24 hour, toll free on-call number. They always have secondary RN on-call for clinical issues.

Bridge Staffing is nurse owned and operated. Their benefits include a 1 bedroom, furnished, private apartment or stipend; BCBS health and dental insurance with day-one coverage, with family coverage at a great rate. \$25,000.00 term life insurance; professional liability insurance; 401K; tax-free per diem; license and travel reimbursement; 24 hour Emergency clinical assistance. AFLAC group rates are now available. Loyalty incentives for long term travelers.

Their recruiters really care. They work with you individually to get as much as possible for you from each assignment. They provide honest answers to questions, we answer their phone and/or return calls.

Bridge Staffing reminds all travel nurses to always ask questions. There are many recruiters out there that are very good at "sales". Make sure the "deal" is as good as it sounds. If you didn't understand something, ask again. Keep a notebook and write everything down.

For more information contact: Bridge Staffing Inc., 3765B Government Blvd, Mobile, AL 36693, 866-661-7070 or visit their website at: [www.bridgestaffing.com](http://www.bridgestaffing.com)



## Number 5 – RN Travel Connection

RN Travel Connection offers 8-13 week travel assignments for RNs across the united states. \$1000 vacation bonus after completion of 3-13 week assignments. \$500 minimum completion bonus per 13 week assignment.

When it comes to travel, they even email mapquest directions for their nurses from the destination they are leaving to where they are staying, and to the hospital.

They have positions across the entire United States for RNs with at least 2 years of experience. They belong to every state association that is contracting.

They are a medium sized company that will know you as a name from Recruiting to

Payroll to Housing to Quality Assurance to the Staffing and Marketing departments who will be submitting your information to the hospitals when you are ready to interview.

Payroll is weekly, if they don't get your timeslip, they will call you. They treat their nurses great. If want to talk to one of their current travelers for a reference, they can set that up.

Many different bonuses including referral, completion, extra hours completion, \$1000 vacation bonus after 3 assignments, a great 401K plan with \$1/\$1 match up to 6%, Free first day United Healthcare PPO with drug card and dental, Your own furnished apartment with electric paid up to

\$100/month, No deposit fees unless you have a pet and they prorate that over the 13 week contract. Personalized attention. Paid drug screen and titers. Licensure reimbursement.

Nurse owned and operated along with a commitment to "make things right" for their nurses. Most of their nurses continue to work for them because they can find them the locations that they like and they know that RNTC will take care of them.

For more information contact: RN Travel Connection, 8255 E. Raintree, Suite 100, Scottsdale, AZ 84260, 8 0 0 - 2 4 3 - 5 9 3 9 , [www.rntravelconnection.com](http://www.rntravelconnection.com)



## Number 4 – Trinity Healthcare Staffing Group

Trinity Healthcare Staffing Group offers travel, per diem, and temp to perm placement for nurses, therapists, techs, practitioners, and physicians across the country.

Trinity was started by a RN who had a negative experience as a travel nurse. Needless to say, Trinity was built to be a company that stands out from the rest in regards to personal service.

They are one of the largest privately owned agencies in the industry, but still recognize nurses for what they are - people. They keep a very low recruiter to nurse ratio and their recruiters often not only know all of their travelers names, but their spouses, kids and or pets names as well!

Trinity offers the following

to our travel nurses: Major Medical, Dental, Vision, Prescription Drug Coverage, Life Insurance, Disability, Workers Comp, General Liability, Professional Liability, 401k, Completion Bonuses for most assignments, and Unlimited Referral Bonuses. You receive all of this in addition to one of the highest pay packages in the industry.

Assuming the nurse is already licensed in that state and they have a completed profile on that individual, they can have them placed within one week. Trinity has one of the best reputations in the industry because of one phrase that they operate by... *Do what you say you are going to do.* Operating this way has earned the trust of several healthcare professionals and has allowed

them to be the fastest growing privately owned healthcare staffing agency in the country.

In 2004 Trinity was named on the Inc. 500 list for being one of the fastest growing privately owned companies in the country. They were also recognized by the Elliot Davis awards in 2003 and 2004 for being one of the fastest growing companies overall in the state of South Carolina. Trinity accomplished all of this without advertising in any magazine or publication. They have grown at this rate by referrals or by word of mouth only.

For more information contact: Trinity Healthcare Staffing Group, 1834 Sally Hill Farms Blvd., Florence, SC 29501, 877-417-9507 or visit their website at: [www.TrinityHSG.com](http://www.TrinityHSG.com)



*“With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.”*

Keshaven Nair



## Number 3 – Abetta Care



The assignments you want,  
where you want!

**ABETTA  
Care™**

When Abetta-Care approaches housing for its travelers, it starts with a series of questions to find out specifically what things are important to the traveler when it comes to selecting housing. Things such as the number bedrooms needed, type of furniture, house wares required, tv, washer/dryer, in unit or on premises, do they have pets, anyone traveling with them, floor preference, etc. are all asked of the healthcare traveler so they can get them exactly what they need. Then, they communicate all of this info to the housing department and ask them to find A-Rated housing in a safe neighborhood that meets the healthcare traveler's parameters.

Abetta-Care provides a flexible compensation package that can be structured in any way that makes sense to the healthcare traveler. In some locations, they offer year round bonuses and in others they offer it if it's important to the healthcare traveler. This would include

extension bonuses as well. At Abetta-Care, their travelers are treated number one. They pride themselves on delivering personalized service not only through their words but rather through their actions. They spend time up front and they also do weekly follow up calls while they are on assignment. This way, they get to know each of them personally, asking them questions about their career goals, how the assignment is going, what they've learned about the area, what challenges they have had at the hospital, what successes they've had on their assignment, etc so they can really get a good understanding of what's important to that particular traveler. They like to work with people through the full life cycle of their healthcare career from Per Diem, to Travel to Direct Placement and be there for the person to service them whenever and wherever they need it. In essence, they strive for the traveler to view us as their Career Coach.

At Abetta-Care, they always have someone on call so if there is a problem or question during off hours, a message can be left in the recruiter's voice mail and it will page whoever is on call for that evening or weekend. Response time will be quick.

Some of the reasons Abetta Care is a top company is their great benefits which include: weekly follow-up by a recruiter during the assignment, guaranteed, personalized service defined by what the traveler tells them they need with a return phone call or email to questions back to the nurse in same day... Guaranteed. Completely flexible and competitive compensation package Including Tax Advantage Program, Free Private Housing and Benefits, Career Coach Services to Meet Your Needs (i.e. Per Diem, Travel, or Direct Placement), Primary Point of Contact with a Secondary Backup Contact.

No runaround to different departments and phone numbers for answers to common

questions on payroll, benefits, housing, etc.

For more information contact: Abetta Care, 4760 West Commercial Blvd, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33319, (866) 943-5884 or visit their website at: [www.abettacare.com](http://www.abettacare.com)



*“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”*

Mark Twain



## Number 2 – Valley Healthcare Systems

Valley Healthcare Systems specialize in travel nurse assignments nationwide as well as local per diem/registry.

You will never reach a voice mail when you call them... I have never found any other company to make that same promise. They have a night nurse on call 24 hours per day and reachable via phone... NEVER an answering service.

They cover 25 states, and England and Sweden,

They provide top notch professional and general liability insurance (A+ Rated)

They have 250 nurses, and each of our nurses are treated as though they are our only nurse.

401K, Direct Deposit, Weekly Paychecks, Medical Benefits, Fully FURNISHED PRIVATE housing!, RT Airfare To/From your Assignment, AND... a Rental Car!!

2 weeks for travel, 2 days for per diem/registry.

They pay higher than our competitors and still offer the personal touch from start to finish.

Their nurses stay with them... and I do mean stay with them. Their average length of tenure is 1.5 years... unmatched in this industry!

Valley Healthcare Systems, Inc, 11344 Coloma Road, Ste 435, Gold River, CA 95670, 800-953-0508 or visit their website at: [www.vhcsystems.com](http://www.vhcsystems.com)

## Number 1 – Premier Healthcare Professionals

For the third year in a row Premier Healthcare Professionals are number one Highway Hypodermics Top Ten Travel Companies.

PHP Inc. is part of a large group of companies specializing in the placement of nurses and other healthcare professionals around the world. The group has company owned offices in London, Sydney and Johannesburg and it is from these offices that it places nurses throughout the UK, Australia and South Africa.

They arrange professional liability insurance for each of their nurses at no cost to the individual. The insurance is for the sole benefit of their nurses and they have coverage for each nurse at any of their client facilities. The coverage is automatically included within the comprehensive benefits package that they provide to their nurses.

All of their nurses are provided with a toll free num-

ber that can be used to contact a PHP representative 24 hours of the day. PHP prides itself on the level of service that it provides its nurses and is more than happy to deal with any issues that may arise, day or night.

The PHP group has been placing nurses in the US for nearly two decades. They understand 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 8 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 enquiries originate from referrals from past or present working nurses. The business simply would not have grown to the force it is today, through the many market

changes, without its dedicated and experienced team of staff.

In addition to providing unparalleled service standards to their nurses, they also boast the most flexible benefits package available in the market. They will 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, 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.

For more information contact: Premier Healthcare Professionals, 2450 Atlanta Hwy, Suite 601 Cumming, GA 30040, (866) 296 3247, [www.travelphp.com](http://www.travelphp.com)



Premier Healthcare  
Professionals



*“Along the fairways of life, you must stop and smell the roses, because you only get to play one round.”*

Ben Hogan

## Copies of “Highway Hypodermics: Your Road Map To Travel Nursing” are still available!

Published only one year ago, this book offers an inside look at travel nursing like no other! It is not only a finalist in USA Book News' Best Books of 2005, but it has received rave reviews from some of the top professionals in the travel nursing and publishing fields.

Here are just some of the reviews: Hey, just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed your book and look forward to

the sequel! It was very informative and an easy read. *Tamara, RN*

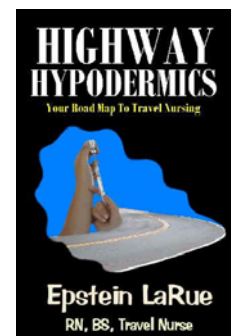
Highway Hypodermics: Your Road Map To Travel Nursing by Epstein LaRue is chock full of practical tips on all aspects of travel nursing. If you have even the slightest interest in becoming a travel nurse, this is one book that you must have! *Kristie Leigh Maguire, Published Author*

The book appears well organ-

ized and echos what travelers I have talked to have told me. *Mark, RN*

She speaks from experience- lots of it- and she speaks in a casual, straight-from-the-heart voice. Her honesty is impeccable. *Carolyn Howard-Johnson, published author*

You can find out more information on this book at [www.epsteinlarue.com](http://www.epsteinlarue.com)



BY HIGHWAY  
HYPODERMICS

*Travel Nurses Make A Difference,  
One Hospital At A Time*



775 Yellowstone Ave  
PMB 175  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Email: [highwayhypo@yahoo.com](mailto:highwayhypo@yahoo.com)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.HIGHWAYHYPODERMICS.COM](http://WWW.HIGHWAYHYPODERMICS.COM)



[www.starpublish.com](http://www.starpublish.com)

## Don't Miss Out On Valuable Information In The Highway Hypodermics eZine

Everyone is invited to sign up for the Highway Hypodermics yahoo group found here: <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/highwayhypodermics/>. The purpose of this group is to notify travel nurses and those who are interested in travel nursing with quality information about the field of travel nursing in form of a bi-monthly eZine. This eZine is published every January, March, May, July, September, and November. By subscribing to this yahoo group, you will receive a notice when the newsletter is published.

## Travel Nursing Highway Blog

If you are looking for a discussion area about travel nursing, try the Highway Hypodermics blog at: <http://travelnursinghighway.blogspot.com/> More valuable information can be found there along with more updated travel nursing information.

## Travel Nursing Discussion Forums

For the best in travel nursing discussion, check out Delphi Travel Nurses And Therapist. They can be found at: <http://forums.delphiforums.com/travelnurses/>

Coming soon to a bookstore near you!

## *Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2007*

Whether you're sailing in Iowa, viewing the sunset from helicopter pad on the top of a hospital in Arizona, gazing at covered bridges in Vermont, or taking a long walk on the beach in Florida, travel nursing is an excellent way to get paid while exploring the United States.

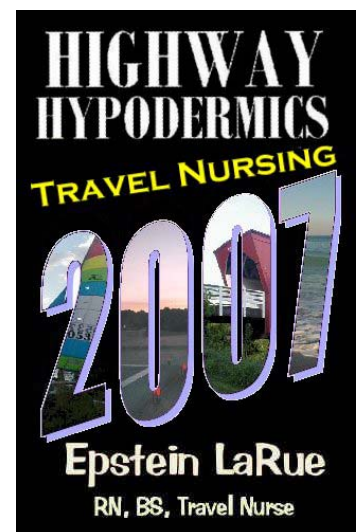
Although *Highway Hypodermics: Your Road Map To Travel Nursing* was written in 2005 with some great information about travel nursing, the next edition, *Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2007*, brings expanded knowledge about the field of travel nursing.

Not only do you get the basics of travel nursing, but additional information is provided on the rewards and drawbacks of travel nursing and making the decision to travel, expanded knowledge on what travel companies are all about and how to choose the right one, all about JCAHO certification, which destinations are the best and how to choose a destination, information on traveling in a recreational vehicle, home-schooling your child while on the road, and additional information on licensing requirements, not to mention all you

would ever need to know about travel nursing and your taxes.

Stop dreaming about travel nursing, and step into reality with *Highway Hypodermics: Travel Nursing 2007*. Epstein's work in progress is set to be published by Star Publish, a division on JadaStar, in January 2007.

Find out Epstein's Writing progress on her blog at: <http://travelnursinghighway.blogspot.com/>



cover subject to editorial changes