

TOP TEN TRAVEL COMPANIES

FOR THE YEAR 2010 01/05/2010

JUST HOW WERE THESE COMPANIES CHOSEN?

Once again it's time to honor the top ten travel nursing companies as ranked by not only the benefits that they provide but by the service they provide to traveling nurses.

After nurses voiced their opinions about what they wanted the most in a travel company, Epstein went to work finding that information. This soon became known as "The Ultimate List Of Travel Companies and Their 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.

At the end of 2008 nurses called for a place to evaluate their travel companies, and Epstein was more than happy to oblige.

In previous years the top ten companies were

picked by the benefits that they provided, then those were voted on by nurses. But nurses called for a change!

This year the top ten were chosen not only by the benefits they provided, but by the way traveling nurses evaluated that company throughout the year.

All companies must have updated their benefits, have had at least one evaluation by a traveling nurse, and have completed the company interview. After this simple process, companies were listed with the number of benefits they provided and the points from evaluating nurses.¹

Through this process HRN, PPR, Nationwide, Across America and Pro-Med Staffing have all gained their way into the top ten, while Guardian, RN Temps, Cirrus, and Not Just Nurses fell just a little short.

This year we also have a tie for 9th & 10th places by three companies, earn-

ing 36.5 points from their benefits and traveler evaluations.

Out of the companies that provide all 21 benefits, Premier Healthcare came out on top, with an average of 19.5 evaluation points out of a possible 20. Freedom Healthcare was close, with 18.5, and Nurses In Partnership and Talemед picking up the tail with 18.08 and 17.3.

Valley Healthcare snuck into second place with 20 benefits and 20 evaluation points.

This year 9 other companies have been named to our honorable mention list. These companies all have 31 to 36 points total (out of a possible 41).

Although there are plenty of other great companies out there, we truly hope that this list provides you with the best ones to start out with.



¹This chart can be found at the end of this document.



NUMBER 9/10 - HRN SERVICES

HRN provides travel opportunities for RNs throughout the country, as well as local per diem opportunities in areas in which they have local offices. HRN serves 47 of the 50 states. They do not offer international assignments at this time.

At HRN, the nurse signs their paychecks, which means that each employee of HRN recognizes that without the nurse, none of them would have a job! HRN travel coordinators walk the nurse through the paperwork process; then the nurse is asked about submissions prior to being submitted to any facility. The nurse is involved and approves all housing decisions prior to leases being signed. Their job is to facilitate the contract for the nurse and make it as seamless as possible, yet allowing the nurse to be a part of the deci-

sion-making process. They are a medium-to-large company. Their nurses are their business, never just a number. An HRN/RN director is on call after hours to assist with any issues that may arise.

They offer company-paid medical/dental benefits that are considered the best in this industry; also included are 401K, life insurance and work bonuses, superior company-paid housing, travel stipends and excellent pay. HRN provides malpractice insurance for their employees. They are divided on the issue of whether or not a nurse needs to supplement that insurance, as they have seen attorneys go after the nurse once they find out that there is more money available when involved in litigation. What HRN provides is adequate and has covered every nurse who

has been involved in litigation.

HRN has collectively over 35 years experience in this industry. Many directors in the company are former travel nurses themselves, so they understand issues that are important to the nurse, and they make those a priority. The CEO of HRN is serious when he says that the nurse signs their paycheck and every employee of HRN realizes this concept. HRN is a company that stands behind their nurses. They are your advocate and they go the extra mile to take care of their nurses.

For more information they can be contacted at 8383 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 258, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, or give them a call at 800-476-5561. Their website can be found at www.hrnservices.com.



NUMBER 9/10 - NATIONWIDE NURSES

Nationwide Nurses (NWN) provides RNs and LPNs with ultimate personal service, unmatched in the nurse travel industry. They have assignments ranging from eight to fifty-two weeks. Nationwide Nurses has experienced travel nurses working in-house as your personal travel specialist, assuring you that you have an assignment that is custom made to fit your special wants and needs.

With a completed application, NWN can have you working in as little as three days. The average time is usually seven to ten days. This all depends on the travel distance and if the nurse has to stop along the way to get state licensure.

They offer unmatched per-

sonal service 24/7. The vice president is available anytime and answers the phones at night. They are a veteran-owned small business. You will be a name, and they will even recognize your voice.

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.

NWN staff has a tremendous retention of their travelers, and a high percentage of new employees are referred by their current travelers. That speaks volumes about them as a preferred travel nurse company.

They are located at Scenic Byway 7 South, P.O. Box 7, Marble Falls, AR 72648. They can be phoned at 866-836-8773. Their website is located at www.nationwidenurses.com.

NUMBER 9/10 - PPR HEALTHCARE

PPR offers travel opportunities for RNs and Allied Health across the US. They also have an International Department for bringing nurses into the US. Their recruiters are very knowledgeable and can help you with any assignment in the United States, including Alaska or Hawaii. They can have nurses interviewed, offered, and ready to go in as little as a week, depending on the quickness of the facility and the nurse to complete the paperwork.

They are a medium-sized company and strive to put their nurses first by offering first-class service. The nurse is never just a number. The recruiter-to-nurse ratio is very low. Each recruiter works with a small amount of nurses. Recruiters offer the use of their personal cell phones for emergencies after hours.

Their service is top-notch; they believe that this is what separates them from the others. They offer flexible benefits,

meaning that they gear their package according to what is most important for each nurse.

For more information, PPR can be found at 333 First Street North, Suite 200, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, or phone them at 888-909-5038. Their website can be found at www.pprhealthcare.com.



NUMBER 8 - 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. It's made them one of the fastest growing and most trusted staffing agencies in the country, and it's why you'll find a home at Trinity too.

Trinity Healthcare Staffing Group offers travel, per diem, and temp-to-perm placement for nursing and allied healthcare professionals. 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 growing 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 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, 877-417-9507, www.TrinityHSG.com.



PRO+MED NUMBER 7 - 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 pro-

gram 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 in less than 24 hours, but the typical time is 24-72 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.



NUMBER 6 - TALEMED

TaleMed offers a wealth of traveling nurse employment opportunities all across the country. From friendly towns to exciting facilities to 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 fifty 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 details 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. Personal and exceptional service is what they strive for. 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.

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. Or perhaps you want to focus on

your work and your life, leaving the hassles and headaches behind. 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

NUMBER 5 - ACROSS AMERICA MED STAFFING



Call Us At: 800-706-6620

Across America Med Staffing offers diversity for opportunities travel—short and long term—part time travelers with hours less than 36. This includes perm positions and travel for RNS, ST, CVORT, Cath Lab, Radiology and Allied division professionals. AAMS currently covers 35 states and is growing. They do not make placements out of the United States at the present. Nurses that are ready to go have been placed within the first week they were hired. On an average, from application to job, it takes two weeks or less; for some it's even faster!

Their company is considered small-to-medium, and in AAMS everybody knows your name. You can call your recruiter directly and there are always alternative numbers where someone is available.

AAMS offers one-on-one service with their recruiter. Each

recruiter in their company has a direct number that makes it possible for their travelers to speak directly with their people 7 days a week. Even on weekends, they have contact with their personal recruiters. Their housing department manager takes each and every person's need into consideration and offers personalized service. Their administrator is available to answer questions on everything from payroll, 401K to insurance, Monday through Friday. Their clinical support manager is available 7 days a week. They take nursing personally.

What makes them different from many other companies? They listen to what their travelers need. Each person gets personalized service and they will work to develop what they need for themselves and their family. AAMS is about the traveler and their needs; they come first.

They pride their nurses in caring about each and every person traveling under their name. AAMS acts as a team, and a team works together to resolve all issues at hand, both the good and the not-so-good.

All of the staff of AAMS combined has over 100 years of experience in the industry. Their travelers are the backbone of their company and many have been with them 2-4 years. They are proud of what they have done for their travelers and are highly appreciated. With AAMS their clients are always #1.

Across America Medical Staffing is located at 201 S. Lake Ave., #409, Pasadena, CA 91101. They can be reached by phone at 800-706-6620, and their website can be found at www.acrossamer.com.

NUMBER 4 - NURSES IN PARTNERSHIP



Nurses in Partnership (NIP) has assignments in forty-three states, education reimbursement, and possible promotion to staff, either in an operational or recruitment role. They have operational personnel that are nurses and they have a 24/7 normal and emergency service. They cover most of the USA. They also have offices in London, England; Dublin, Ireland; and Sydney, Australia. The time from interview to on-assignment varies; the fastest has been three days.

NIP is a medium-sized company for the travel nursing industry. They currently employ many registered nurses who have worked with them for well over two years. They receive many

recommendations, especially for their understanding of clinical competencies and how they relate to the travel nurse industry.

Benefits with NIP include travel allowance, medical and dental coverage from day one, 401K (100% company match from day one for up to 4% of the nurse's salary), license reimbursement, education reimbursement, and a bonus structure that increases per assignment. Not only do they provide free private accommodations with furniture, but they are also pet friendly.

One of their greatest attributes is their industry knowledge. Executives have been in the industry for 20+ years and they

understand that a travel nurse company grows only if it can retain nurses. 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 they have their best interests at heart, which only happens if they are treated as a valued member of the staff, not just another number. They care about their nurses!

For more information, you can contact them at Nurses in Partnership, 28118 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 or phone them at 800-978-8555. Their website can be found at www.nipinc.com.



NUMBER 3 - 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 travelers with respect. Although they are a small company, Freedom Healthcare Staffing was established by executives from the hospital and staffing industry. Many of their nurses know them from the larger companies they were formally with. 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.

All of their staff is on call 24 hours a day, including their President! You can be assured that if you do have a problem you will not be routed to a call center, but to an individual within FreedomHCS that is empowered to handle your particular situation.

They offer comprehensive benefit insurance thru United Healthcare, life insurance, Simple IRA with Company match, CEU reimbursement, licensing assistance, professional liability insurance, direct deposit, weekly pay, online portal, company-provided housing and travel, along with a lucrative referral rewards program.

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 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 2 - 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 four days for a travel assignment and two 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 ser-

vice.

Benefits include paid medical benefits, 401K, 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 per-

sonal 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.

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. 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 cover is automatically included within the comprehensive benefits package that they provide to their nurses.

All of their nurses are provided with a toll free number that can be used to contact a PHP representative 24 hours of the day. PHP prides itself on the level of service they provide their 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 members.

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.

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 www.travelphp.com.



Premier Healthcare
Professionals





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BENEFIT & EVALUATION SCORES

	COMPANY NAME	BENEFIT SCORE	EVALUATION SCORE	TOTAL SCORE
1	Premier Healthcare	21	19.50	40.50
2	Valley Healthcare Systems	20	20.00	40.00
3	Freedom Healthcare Staffing	21	18.50	39.50
4	Nurses In Partnership	21	18.08	39.08
5	Across America Med Staffing	19	20.00	39.00
6	Talemed	21	17.30	38.30
7	Pro-Med Staffing	18	19.07	37.07
8	Trinity Healthcare Staffing	17	20.00	37.00
9	Nationwide Nurses	18	18.50	36.50
9	PPR Travel	18	18.50	36.50
9	HRN	17	19.50	36.50
12	Med Pro Staffing	17	19.00	36.00
13	Bridge Staffing	17	18.50	35.50
14	IPI Travel	20	15.30	35.30
15	Travel Nurse Across America	17	17.25	34.25
16	The Right Solutions	13	20.00	33.00
17	Cirrus Medical Staffing	15	17.50	32.50
18	Sagent Healthstaff	19	13.00	32.00
19	RTG Medical	17	15.00	32.00
20	Medical Solutions	17	14.50	31.50