

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Volume 6, Issue 12

A eZine for travel nurses by a traveling nurse!

December 2009

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12 Unique Gifts For Travelers

Epstein's Editorial

During my assignments I'm always asked, "What do you want for Christmas?" In these times we neither have room for a lot of presents and people don't have a lot of money to give presents (including us nurses), so I have scoured the internet for some great economical travel gifts that can be either given or received by the travel nurse that are not just your "run-of-the-mill" gifts.

1. Travel Stickers for your luggage: You can get map stickers, vintage stickers, and even outdoor stickers.
2. Travel journals: These can range from ones that you write in about your adventures to a journal that keeps tabs on post-cards.
3. Digital photo album: allows you to add a background to your photos and then embellish them with art, text, and tags.
4. Scrapbook kits usually include travel themed stickers, alphabet sheets, photo mounts, journaling strips, ribbons, and

tags. Pick out your favorite photos to embellish then use as a coffee table book.

5. Puzzle kits: Send a picture in and have a puzzle made out of it. A unique idea to remember your last assignment piece by piece!
6. Christmas cards: Take time out to take a special picture near the big Christmas tree or other downtown holiday landmark and make your own Christmas cards!
7. Tree Ornaments: I have a smaller tree, but on it contains several ornaments from family and friends. If you have just one special one for each relative it would bring them closer to you and doesn't take up much suitcase room.
8. Travel wine tote: Several wine totes that I found have glasses, napkins, a waiter's tool with corkscrew, and a separate insulated compartment to keep your wine at its correct temperature.
9. Travel gifts baskets:



One of the baskets that I viewed had a small map, travel personal items, acetaminophen, small makeup kit, travel clock, and a small manicure kit. This could also include small items found at your assignment like sea shells, assorted golf balls from several courses, souvenirs from the area, or maybe a sample of local candy.

10. Personal Pocket Language translator: On one website, I found a very inexpensive one that could translate up to fifteen different languages. Would be a great gift for someone who loves to do international travel.
11. Ultra-violet toothbrush carrier: uses a germicidal ultraviolet light to sanitize your

toothbrush in a handy little carrying case.

12. And just when I had thought I'd seen it all... I found the doggie booster seat! This booster seat has a quilted nylon cover, topped with faux lambs wool, is easily removed from the foam core for machine washing. There's even a storage tray for treats or other pet needs.

I truly hope that list will give you some inspiration for that last minute gift shopping. May each and everyone of my loyal readers have a very Merry Christmas. May the Lord truly bless you and keep you safe through your next year of traveling!

Company Spotlight



What kind of career opportunities does your company offer?

Freedom Healthcare Staffing (FreedomHCS) offers temporary travel assignments, 4 to 13 weeks in duration all over the United States.

Do you cover all the United States, parts of the U.S. or do you also offer international assignments?

We offer assignments all over the United States.

What is your average time from acceptance of application to first day on the job for those nurses ready-to-go?

Typically, a response within 2-3 business days; some hospitals are quicker with a response and some are slower. The important thing, for us, is to advise the Healthcare Traveler on our 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.

I work night shift, what if I have problems at night?

All of our staff is on call, 24 hours a day, including our 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.

What size is your company and can I expect to be treated as a number or a name?

One of our core values is to treat our Healthcare Travelers with Respect. Although we are a small company, Freedom Healthcare Staffing was established by executives from the hospital and staffing industry. Many of our nurses know us from the larger companies we were formally with. It is very important to our President, as well as every member of Freedom Healthcare Staffing, that our Healthcare Travelers have a rewarding experience, both intrinsically and monetarily, while working with our Company.

Can I expect personal service with your company?

Absolutely! Again, this is at the heart of Freedom Healthcare Staffing.

What other type of benefits does your company provide?

We 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.

About professional insurance, do you believe that the insurance that a company provides is good enough, or does the nurse also need to obtain her own professional insurance?

Freedom Healthcare Staffing provides comprehensive professional liability insurance for our Healthcare Travelers. We exclusively deal with insurance companies rated "A" (or higher).

What makes your company more than "just another" travel company?

Freedom Healthcare Staffing stands behind our Healthcare Travelers! Many companies pay "lip service" to this value, but this is also at the heart of our interaction with our nurses. In fact, there are hospital clients we will no longer do business with due to our perceived treatment of our Healthcare Travelers.

Is there anything else you would like travel nurses to know?

It is our goal to make every experience with Freedom Healthcare Staffing rewarding. We also specialize in the "hand holding" sometimes needed for first-time travelers, and for that matter, any one else that needs some extra emotional support while on the road. Thank you for reading our interview and please visit us at www.freedomhcs.com.

For More Information Contact:

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iPhone Edition of Portable Drug Reference Released

Technology News

Sudbury, Mass (PRWEB) November 9, 2009 – Tarascon™, an imprint of Jones and Bartlett Publishers, today announces the release of the Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia iPhone application with continuous updates to critical drug dosing information important to health care providers at the point of care facing evolving medical challenges such as H1N1 ("swine flu") and other infectious diseases.

The Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia iPhone application also offers:

- Expanded drug information from the Deluxe Edition of the print Pocket Pharmacopoeia.
- Meticulously peer-reviewed content by an editorial board of licensed PharmDs and practicing clinicians from multiple specialties
- A fully integrated tool that allows users to check for multiple drug interactions
- Includes typical drug dosing (both FDA approved and off-label uses), available trade and generic formulations, metabolism, and safety in pregnancy and lactation.
- Extensive pediatric drug dosing,
- Invaluable reference tables,
- Dynamic medical formula calculators.
- Relative pricing codes (\$ to \$\$\$\$) as well as exact prices updated monthly

directly from drug-store.com.

- A fully integrated "Herbal & Alternative Therapy" section.
- Unique Canadian trade names and drugs.
- Consumer Reports "Best Buy Drugs," which provides information on prescription drugs' effectiveness, track record, safety and price.
- Complete customer privacy, insuring that users' personal data and product-use patterns will never be sold to third parties.

Since its launch in 1987, the Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia has become the most popular and most trusted source of portable drug information for many health care providers including physicians, residents, medical students, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dentists, and medical transcriptionists. The Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia is available in a variety of print formats (from the Classic Shirt-Pocket edition to the Professional Desk Reference edition) as well as in mobile formats for the Palm OS, Windows Mobile, and BlackBerry platforms, in addition to the iPhone platform.

The Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia iPhone application is available through

the iTunes App Store for \$39.99 and includes 12 months of continuous drug updates. For more information on The Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia visit www.tarascon.com.

About Tarascon: Tarascon is an imprint of Jones and Bartlett Publishers, a world-leading provider of instructional, assessment and learning-performance management solutions for the post-secondary, career and professional markets. Tarascon's mission is to provide health care professionals the best available portable medical references. Tarascon's acclaimed series of pocket guides succinctly distills and organizes hard-to-remember yet vitally important clinical information.

The Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia is the world's leading portable drug reference, and has been the most popular and most trusted source of portable drug information since 1987. Doody's book reviews calls it "a useful, in fact, necessary resource for any practicing internist, family physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and those in training." In an Annals of Internal Medicine survey, the Pocket Pharmacopoeia tied with the stethoscope as the most essential item in resident physicians' white coat pockets, with 97% rating the reference as either "very useful" or "essential."



www.nipinc.com

This application includes 12 months of continuous drug updates.



www.ipitravel.com

Travel Nursing News

New Instant Job Updates vis Twitter

North Little Rock, AK (PRWEB) November 19, 2009 – Travel Nurse across America, a national travel healthcare staffing company, launches specialized Twitter travel nurse and travel therapy job opportunity feeds in response to the market's growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals.

"We've seen an incredible increase in demand for hospital and other care facility positions," says Gene Scott, President. "Matching the right candidate to these growing number of available positions as quickly as pos-

sible is critical to helping hospitals maintain their staffing requirements. As we expand our services across key social networks, we see Twitter as a viable way of providing traveling healthcare professionals with instant updates on new job openings."

To complement the searchable online database of jobs at their website, Travel Nurse across America has created over 20 Twitter accounts which are customized for each RN and Therapy specialty. These accounts are instantly updated as travel nursing jobs

and travel therapy are received from client healthcare facilities. Interested candidates can easily track new listings by following only the feeds, which are most relevant to their skill sets. The "tweets", or job alerts, contain links to more details on each job, along with contact and job number information. Links to these Twitter job accounts can be found at Travel Nurse across America or the company Twitter account, www.twitter.com/TravelNurseAA.

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"Twitter is a viable way of providing traveling healthcare professionals with instant updates on new job openings."

Joint Commission Introduces Perinatal Care Core Measures

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. – November 20, 2009) Beginning next year, Joint Commission accredited hospitals will be able to report on a set of perinatal care core measures to meet Joint Commission accreditation requirements. The perinatal care measure set will replace the existing pregnancy and related conditions measure set. Data collection is set to begin with April 1, 2010 discharges.

The five measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and represent three domains of care: assessment/screening, prematurity care and infant feeding. Hospitals that voluntarily choose to use this set of measures will collect and report data for elective deliveries, c-

sections, use of antenatal steroids, healthcare associated bloodstream infections, and exclusive breast milk feeding.

"The performance measures in The Joint Commission's perinatal care measure set are evidence-based and afford accredited hospitals the opportunity to use a standardized approach for assessing quality in perinatal care" says Jerod M. Loeb, Ph.D., executive vice president, Division of Quality Measurement and Research, The Joint Commission.

The perinatal care measures will be part of 10 measure sets available for selection in The Joint Commission's ORYX performance measurement initiative. Hospitals are required

to collect and transmit data to The Joint Commission for a minimum of four voluntarily selected core measure sets or a combination of applicable core measure sets and non-core measures based on the patient population they serve. The Joint Commission first began requiring accredited hospitals to collect data on standardized—or core—performance measures in 2002. These standardized measures are integral to improving the quality of care provided to hospital patients and bringing value to stakeholders by focusing on the processes and results of care. To learn more about the perinatal care measures, visit www.jointcommission.org.

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New Online Continuing Education Course on Near-Death Experiences

Nursing News

Philadelphia, PA (PRWEB) September 29, 2009 – HealthForumOnline (HFO), a nationally-approved (APA, ASWB, NBCC, PSNA, CA-BBS) provider of online continuing education (CE) for psychologists, social workers, counselors, nurses and other allied healthcare professionals announces the addition of a new online CE course, Near-Death Experiences: Implications for Clinical Practice to their extensive online CE resource library.

The International Association for Near-Death Studies defines a near-death experience (NDE) as a profound psychological event that may occur to a person close to death in a situation of physical or emotional crisis. Since a NDE includes transcendent and mystical elements, an NDE is a powerful event of consciousness and can be a life-altering event. While the etiology of NDEs currently remains unclear, as many as 10-40% of those who survive a clinical crisis, such as surgery, cardiac arrest, accidents, childbirth, allergic reactions, acute illness, drowning, terminal illness, combat, and extreme emotional stress, report a NDE. This figure is likely to increase as a result of improved techniques of resuscitation. Further, the actual occurrence of NDEs may be significantly higher, since many NDErs may be reluctant to talk about their experience post-NDE due to fear of being labeled mentally ill by untrained healthcare professionals who may

initially discount and even pathologize their experience due to a lack a sufficient knowledge and associated clinical skills regarding this phenomenon. Interestingly, those who report NDEs have been shown to be distinct from those meeting the clinical criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or dissociative disorders, as well as intellectually "solid" and psychologically "healthy" as evidenced by intelligence tests and standardized psychological measures.

"At first, many near-death experience patients are confused and fearful because the experience is so out of their realm of awareness and so uncommon to their everyday senses", notes course co-author Dr. Harris Friedman, clinical psychologist and Research Professor in the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Florida. Not only do they lack the words to describe the event, but they lack the ability to integrate the NDE into their personal life history. Moreover, this confusion and fear may close off any future attempts to discuss the NDE with their healthcare providers. This is significant because the short- and long-term effects of NDE have the potential to negatively impact a patient's emotional, physical/physiological, social, and spiritual life, at times, requiring clinical intervention. Thus, there are various clinical implications for health practitioners working with the NDE

population, among them that initial validation is critical to the course and outcome of the NDE patient and their ability to cognitively integrate this life-changing experience in an adaptive and healthy manner.

This online CE/CEU course synthesizes 33 years of evidence-based research on NDEs, including its frequency, possible etiology, DSM-IV-TR diagnostic criteria, assessment strategies, and short-term and long-term effects. Lastly, clinical implications for treatment are addressed along with important barriers to treatment that can occur when comorbid Axis I or Axis II DSM-IV-TR disorders exist.

Psychologists, social workers, counselors, nurses and other allied health professionals can choose from HFO's 19 categories of CE topics related to health psychology and behavioral medicine containing over 65 online CE courses that are fast, convenient and cost-effective. All HFO CE courses and supporting materials are available online or as downloadable, transportable PDFs. Participants print their own CE certificates. Lastly, HFO routinely updates our online CE courses, notifies customers of these updates and enables customers to review these updates for free online even after they have completed the CE activity and generated their CE certificate.



www.freedomhcs.com

"For more info. on this course or a complete listing of titles in our online CE resource library, visit: HealthForumOnline.com."



www.fastaff.com

Healthcare News

Joint Commission & HHS Team Up In Language Access Education



www.vhcsystems.com

“Ineffective communication between patients and providers can result in misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment or medication errors,”



www.talemed.com

Amid growing concerns about racial, ethnic and language disparities in health care, The Joint Commission and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights have released a video, entitled “Improving Patient-Provider Communication,” which supports language access in health care organizations. The Joint Commission and HHS agree that effective communication is a critical aspect of safe, quality patient care. Many patients of varying circumstances require alternative communication methods, and this new video will help health care organizations determine the best methods of care for meeting these communication needs.

Health care organizations face challenges to accommodate increasingly diverse patient populations - more than 28 million people with hearing loss (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders estimate) and approximately 47 million people who speak a language other than English (according to the U.S. Census Bureau). Language access remains a matter of national importance. The video identifies tools that health care organizations can use to build effective language access programs.

With many competing priorities in health care, the video explains why particular attention should be paid to Federal civil rights standards and The Joint Commission’s accreditation

standards pertaining to effective communication and language access. The video also addresses the obligations of health care organizations with respect to the translation of written documents. The video clarifies that HHS and The Joint Commission do not endorse one specific approach to ensuring language access, but recommend using resources and modes of interpretation that are accessible, in working order, and are put into use when necessary to serve the needs of patients and their families.

“Ineffective communication between patients and providers can result in misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment or medication errors,” says Amy Wilson-Stronks, project director in the Division of Standards and Survey Methods and principal investigator for Hospitals, Language and Culture study at The Joint Commission. “When a provider cannot communicate effectively about a disease or treatment, or when a patient cannot describe their illness, they lack the basic connection needed to result in appropriate care. Appropriate communication is necessary for ensuring quality and safety in health care.”

HHS Office for Civil Rights Director Georgina Verdugo lauds the video for highlighting the rights of patients in getting access to crucial medical services. “Our goal is to ensure that all individuals, including those with limited English proficiency and those deaf

or hard of hearing, have access to safe, quality health care, without facing unlawful discrimination,” says Director Verdugo. “Effective communication between the patient and the health care professional is essential to achieving that goal.”

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal funds; a failure to provide language access services for Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons may be a form of discrimination on the basis of national origin. Similarly, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which protects the rights of individuals with disabilities, requires health care organizations that receive federal funds to provide effective communication for patients who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the same standards with respect to health care organizations without regard to their receipt of federal funds.

This video streams from The Joint Commission’s Hospitals, Language, and Culture Website. The OCR Web page also includes many resources on effective communication for LEP and deaf and hard of hearing persons. For more information, check out our website at: www.jointcommission.org.



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

To send your comments or suggestions, please feel free to email Epstein at highwayhypo@yahoo.com

THANKS TO ALL FOR SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS WEBSITE AND EZINE, AND REMEMBER TO REFER OTHER TRAVEL NURSES TO THIS WEBSITE!

REMINDER TO ALL TRAVEL COMPANIES and TRAVELING NURSES

This year the top ten travel companies will be based not only on what benefits your company provides, but on travel nurse's evaluations of your company. If you have not already done so, please update your benefits at our website then look to your left under "Questionnaires" for "Company Benefits."

Also, you may have your travelers come by and fill out a travel nursing company evaluation,

which is also found under the teal heading of "Questionnaires" on the left hand side.

All questionnaires must be filled out by the 31st of December.

The Top Ten Companies will be announced sometime in the first week of January, before January 7th, 2010.

2009 has been a tough year for the travel nursing industry. We have seen some increase in jobs the past few months,

and I truly hope that this trend continues through 2010.

I am so thankful for all the travel companies who not only support the works of the Highway Hypodermic website and book, but I'm so grateful for those companies who provide great service to traveling nurses around this great continent!

May each and every one of you have a great year in 2010. May it be the best year ever!



COMPANY BENEFITS: http://www.highwayhypodermics.com/Questionnaire_TravelCompany.htm

COMPANY EVALUATION FOR TRAVEL NURSES:
http://www.highwayhypodermics.com/Questionnaire_TravelCompanyEvaluation.htm