

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Volume 7, Issue 2

A eZine for travel nurses by a traveling nurse!

February 2010

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Med Staff Inc.

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Hopkins Nursing Center Offers E-Support to Nurses, Midwives in Haiti

Newswise — In the aftermath of Haiti's devastating earthquake, the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center has been actively assisting Haitian nurses and midwives from afar, gathering nursing education materials and making them available electronically.

As co-director of the Collaborating Center, Associate Professor Patricia Abbott, PhD, RN, manages the Global Alliance for Nursing and Midwifery (GANM), an electronic community of practice specifically designed to deliver information for nurses and midwives in low-resource settings. After the earthquake, the Center began an effort to collect nursing education materials, translate them into French and Creole and make them available to the nurses and midwives in Haiti electronically.

"We are getting educational material contributions for Haiti from some of the most desperately

needy places in the world," Abbott said. "I find myself speechless at the selfless contributions from the global nursing community." So far, materials have come from nations across the globe, including Japan, Afghanistan, Brazil, Pakistan, Nepal, and Somalia.

While some of the information can be used for emergency aid — documents on infection control and working with open wounds in the absence of medical supplies, for example — Abbott said much of it is designed as a resource for medical training in Haiti in the months and years ahead.

The January 12 earthquake exacted a heavy toll on Haiti's nursing community. The Ecole Nationale des Infirmieres (National School of Nursing) in Port-au-Prince — one of three official nursing schools in the country — was destroyed. One hundred and fifty second-year nursing students and two professors were killed when the

Epstein's Editorial

building collapsed, and most of the school's teaching materials and computers were lost, according to Agnes Jacobs, an international midwife adviser working for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Haiti. The neighboring midwifery school was seriously damaged, Jacobs said.

Abbott said she isn't sure how many GANM members currently are in Haiti, though she has been in regular contact with four. One nurse midwife wrote to her recently from Carrfour, a largely residential community near Port-au-Prince.

"I haven't delivered any babies yet though we know of several that were born just in their tent cities in the street since I've been here," she wrote. "I have been seeing pregnant women and women with [gynecological] concerns at the local chaotic hospital as well. I do not currently have any obstetric medications, though I do have a few basic birth kits. The local hospital has no supplies, all were lost in the quake. Thank you for your help!"



The GANM supports the professional development of nurses and midwives through collaborative networking and education. Its membership consists of 2,020 nurses and midwives in 142 countries.

The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing is a global leader in nursing research, education, and scholarship. The School and its baccalaureate, master's, PhD, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs are recognized for excellence in educating nurses who set the highest standards for patient care and become innovative national and international leaders. For more information, visit <http://www.nursing.jhu.edu>.



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Company Spotlight



Med Staff Inc.

What kind of career opportunities does your company offer?

We will assist the healthcare professionals with their CEU's if needed.

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

We cover the entire United States including Alaska and Hawaii for travel Healthcare Professionals. We also provide per diem in Iowa and Illinois.

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

It varies with each healthcare professional. If they are ready to travel and their is a position available, it would run no longer than 48 hours for an acceptance. If they are not ready, finishing an assignment or some other type of issue, it would have a variance.

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

Small. We will always be treated as a name. We treat all of our employees as family. If you treat individuals with respect and honesty, you will find that you will have a better rapport and long-term employees.

Can I expect personal service with your company?

Yes, each individual is treated with respect, honesty and dignity. Each individual is unique in their own way and will be treated with individualized service.

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

Yes, we have someone that you can call 24/7. No problem is ever dismissed and will be discussed at anytime and we will rectify it ASAP.

What other type of benefits does your company provide?

We offer furnished one bedroom apartment, day one medical and dental insurance, \$500.00 completion bonus, \$500 travel reimbursement, Tax Advantage Plan option and Excellent payroll department.

What about professional insurance?

We supply the insurance for the nurse to work, but if a nurse needs to obtain her own professional insurance is up to each individual. Yes, it is good to have this, but that is each individuals choice.

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

We are dedicated to our employees and strive to make them happy and comfortable on their assignment. Our recruiters develop a rapport with each of their nurses and some have them for years. The success of a company is the recruiter and the rapport that they develop with the healthcare professionals.

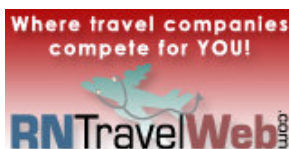
We will do everything to make your travel assignment comfortable, stress free, with a location you would like to work, open communication and an excellent payroll department. As we know, payroll can either make or break an agency. My motto is to always be honest and upfront with each person.

For More Information Contact:

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From Joe's Desk...

Travel Tax News

General News

Hope your holidays were pleasant and relaxing. With the new decade, it's hard to believe that 10 years ago we were worried about Y2K!

1) Our workbooks have been updated and are posted on the website, but at the same time Congress is still tinkering with retroactive tax legislation. This is becoming an annual event and creates confusion for taxpayers.

2) Remember that the IRS allows you to save your records electronically! Scan that paperwork and get rid of your clutter. Our website has links to product discounts that can help you unclutter your lives.

3) A bill was presented before congress to extend the Heartland Disaster Relief Act that is set to expire soon. This legislation contained a number of tax related items including enhanced educational credits for those attending schools in affected areas.

4) 1099's for interest, dividends and other payments may be delayed again this year as late as

February 15 which is the extended date

that banks and brokerages have to mail these forms.

State News

1) States continue to pursue residency issues with all sorts of taxpayers. Alabama courts gave some more taxpayer friendly rulings to a cardiologist and engineer who intended to sever their ties to the state but retained a drivers license and other legal ties. These rulings are not the norm that we have seen during 2009.

2) New York continues its reckless pursuit of making anyone that makes a few bucks in the state a resident for tax purposes. The new rules that went in to affect forced all out of state college students to be taxed as residents. In December, they amended the law but NOT FOR GRADUTE STUDENTS. Hence, if you have a dorm at a NY college while pursuing a graduate degree, you are a tax resident of NY for tax purposes.

(Reference TSB-M-09(15)I, December 16, 2009).

3) KY continues to give a \$5000 credit for newly built or previously unoccupied homes

4) OH is delaying the mailing of their instruction booklets due to last minute tax changes

Other News

Our long time assistant, Diane Gillis will be leaving at the end of tax season due to her husband's job transfer. Those of you that have worked with her know how conscientious and delightful she is. As the season progresses, take some time to wish her well in her future endeavors. She will be missed.

Join us in welcoming Kris Osborne to our staff. Kris will be assisting Diane during the tax season and transitioning into her role.

We look forward to hearing from you this tax season and welcome your comments and referrals!



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Allied Health World Launches: A Site Dedicated to Health Education

Seattle, Washington (PRWEB) January 14, 2010 – President Obama is looking to reform the health-care system, and he's using his budget and an economic stimulus package to help fund it. As Obama's health care plans continue to demand national attention, Hillary Clinton is interviewed by David Gregory, on Meet The Press, Sunday night. While watching this interview, it becomes apparent that the health-care industry is about to blossom.

"The time has come, and this president is committed to it (Universal Health Care). I think the leadership in Congress finally understands we have to do something."

Allied Health World has been developed for this opportune time. It is an authority for on-line degrees with the nation's leading schools. With Obama encouraging mothers to go back to work, and even providing special grants and incentives specifically for this purpose, on-line degrees can provide a very reasonable resource for indi-

viduals to break into the career of their dreams. Mothers can remain at home with their children while pursuing the goal of higher education.

"We all want a health-care system that is universal, high quality and affordable," says Hillary Clinton on June 7th 2006, "this is not just an issue for me, it is a passion. No exceptions, no excuses."

With the increasing need for health care workers from all allied health schools and related fields such as; Radiology technician careers, Medical billing and coding careers, Paramedic training, and learning how to become a radiologist, the demand is only expected to further increase. As job opportunities in this field continue to grow, Allied Health World has been carefully designed to assist individuals in their career pursuits. "Our goal is to help up and coming students to decide which field in the healthcare industry most interests them, and then match them with the necessary training." In

Healthcare News

addition, Allied Health World contains informative articles with professionals in chosen fields. It will provide people access to the resources needed to make informed decisions about their education, while accomplishing their dreams and goals.

It used to be that people took Health care for granted. We are now losing health insurance for 14,000 people per day. Small businesses, which used to provide health insurance for their employees, can no longer afford it. In 1993 61% of small businesses provided health insurance to its employees and today the number has shrunk to 38%. The time has come for reform.

Luckily Hillary Clinton and President Obama feel very optimistic that a bill will be passed this year. With reform comes an increased need for qualified health care workers in hospitals, doctors' offices, and private care facilities.



www.freedomhcs.com

"Our goal is to help up and coming students to decide which field in the healthcare industry most interests them"



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Healthcare News

Joint Commission Annual Report Shows Gains in Patient Care Quality



www.vhcsystems.com

"In addition to saving lives and improving health, improved quality reduces health care costs by eliminating preventable complications"



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(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Ill. – January 14, 2010) Accredited hospitals in America have steadily improved the quality of patient care over a seven-year period, saving lives and improving the health of thousands of patients, according to The Joint Commission's latest annual report. The report, *Improving America's Hospitals: The Joint Commission's Report on Quality and Safety 2009*, provides scientific evidence of improvements in the care of patients with heart attacks, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical conditions. Since their inception as core measures in 2002, pneumococcal vaccination and smoking cessation advice measures have demonstrated the greatest rates of improvement. Children's asthma care also was measured and included in the report for the first time.

"In addition to saving lives and improving health, improved quality reduces health care costs by eliminating preventable complications," says Mark R. Chassin, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission. "Quality improvement is

an important aspect of the ongoing reform effort to make health care accessible to more Americans and 'bend the curve' on increasing costs. By eliminating the preventable complications that today drive up the cost of care, we would easily save the many billions of dollars lawmakers are struggling so hard to locate."

The fourth annual report shows continual improvement between 2002 and 2008 on 12 quality measures reflecting the best evidence-based treatments for heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia – practices demonstrated by scientific evidence to lead to the best outcomes. The magnitude of national improvement on these measures ranged from 4.9 percent to 58.8 percent. Hospital performance also improved on 13 other measures.

The report presents scientific evidence of improvement and how it relates to common medical conditions and procedures. Five new measures were introduced in 2008, bringing the total number of Joint Commission measures covered in

this report to 31. There are eight measures of care relating to heart attack, four to heart failure, nine to pneumonia, eight to surgical care, and two to children's asthma care. More than 3,000 Joint Commission-accredited hospitals contributed data.

The report also shows that variability is still present in the level of quality of patient care delivered.

"The data in this report show steady improvement over time on vitally important measures of quality. Furthermore," adds Dr. Chassin, "with more than 95 percent of hospitals now exceeding 90 percent performance on some measures, we are beginning to see the kind of consistent excellence to which we aspire for all of health care."

Quality, safety and patient satisfaction results for specific hospitals can be found at www.qualitycheck.org. For a complete copy of *Improving America's Hospitals: The Joint Commission's Report on Quality and Safety 2009*, please visit our website at: www.jointcommission.org.



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The purpose of this eZine is to bring you quality information about travel nursing and the travel nursing field. This eZine is published every month. By subscribing to our yahoo group, you will receive a notice when the eZine is published. You will find the link to subscribe at: <http://www.highwayhypodermics.com/ezine.htm>

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!

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New Mini Lift For Helping Patients To Stand Up And Be Transported In A Small Area

(PRWEB) January 25, 2010 – Considering it is hard and unsafe to move patients or aged people in a petit area, Elitex Metal Group spent several years to develop and research. The super mini patient and aged people stand-aid/moving lift is now being completed in 2010. Used for moving between beds, wheel chair, and small room, saves the nurse from vocational injury and ensure the safety of the patient.

frame structure is made mainly of aluminum tube and its weight is far away under 25 kgs, the base leg is foldable, easy to carry and store. Compact and light weight is the most brilliant feature. Elitex is equipped with experienced, skillful engineers, and advanced manufacturing equipment. Elitex has 20 sets of automatic welding robots, 6 sets of computer CNC tube bending machine, and 7 sets of automatic

cutting machine. Besides, Elitex has 3D geometric dimension measurement, standard material strength meter, 2D dimension measurement, and salt spray fog tester. Moreover, Elitex has quality assurance system, such as ISO 9001, ISO 13485, F.D.A, CE; all products produced by Elitex are to ensure safety and quality.

Elitex is professional manufacturer to make medical equipment and long-term care with rehabilitation facility. Elitex wants to help people to live a comfortable dignified living. Immense space with more than 260 employees who trying hard to make good quality and useful welfare items for people. Elitex is working towards to become the most professional and well-known medical equipment brand in the world.

For more information, check out their website at: <http://www.elitex.com.tw>

The mini patient lift's tube feeding circular saw