

Your Place For Up To Date Travel Nursing Information

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Volume 7, Issue 1

A eZine for travel nurses by a traveling nurse!

January 2010

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Nursing
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The Top Ten Companies For 2010

Epstein's Editorial

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, earning 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 Taledmed 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!

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Company Spotlight

Tech Group, Inc.



What kind of career opportunities does your company offer?

We staff radiation therapy, radiology, sonography, nursing and laboratory. We offer travel, per diem, temp to perm and perm opportunities.

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

We do nationwide healthcare staffing. At this time we do not offer international assignments.

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

If you are "ready-to-go"...as in your paperwork is in order and are licensed and packed...we can get you on the road in a matter of days. A week is more typical; although, we have lots of flying out on Friday to start on Monday... depends on how adventurous you are.

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

We have a staffing coordinator on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are a small company and we share working space. We all know each others travelers and take time at the end of each day to review who is traveling or moving or picking up a car or...you get the idea.

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

We are a small company in business for over 17 years. We are based in Spokane, WA. We were started by health care professionals that also have traveled...we know. Not only do we know your name, we know your dog's name...and how they are doing in obedience school... your kid's name... and how they are doing in school...and whether or not they will be traveling with you. We take pride in knowing our travelers and knowing their needs...that is the only way we can make the great match and make a great assignment to remember.

Can I expect personal service with your company?

It is our mission to provide the highest quality patient care. We do that by finding and retaining the highest quality health care providers. We are about people. We strive to exceed your expectations. A big part of that is to offer personal service to our travelers. We know what it's like to be on the road, away from home and family. We are happy to make special arrangements for housing... top floor for a day sleeper or bottom floor for mom who uses a walker, finding pet friendly housing or remember birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and special weeks

What other type of benefits does your company provide?

We offer top pay, shift diffs and weekend diffs, per diem, free, private housing, auto allowances or rentals, covered travel. We also offer referral bonuses, hours of service bonuses, continuing education reimbursement. We offer 401K, medical and dental insurance, long and short term disability and life insurance...and more.

What about professional insurance?

I believe that the amount that we offer is sufficient to cover the nurse.

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

We are a small company with big heart. We strive to exceed your expectations. Many of our travelers have traveled with us for many assignments because they can feel the difference. We appreciate our travelers and want to make sure that they know it.

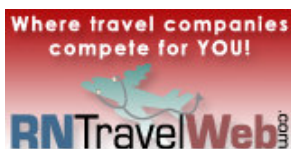
We love to think out of the box to make great healthcare happen. We are a serious business that loves to have fun. One of our core values is humor.

For More Information Contact:

*Tech Group, Inc.
244 West Main
Spokane, WA 99207*

800-523-3968

www.techgroupinc.com



www.rntravelweb.com

January News From Travel Tax

General Tax News:

.1) January seminars: The dates, times and locations are set for our annual west coast workshops in Seattle, San Francisco, LA and Phoenix. We will also be in Greenville SC the end of January. Our 2 hour workshops have helped many travelers unravel the confusion about the tax laws as they affect our jobs. Go to our website for more information www.traveltax.com.

2) Post Doctoral Fellows: For our clients that are post-doctoral fellows working for various government agencies, the IRS released a ruling classifying income from a number of non-NRSA (National Research Service Awards) programs as wages subject to Social Security. Call us for more information if this affects you.

3) What does health care reform have to do with the IRS? Guess who gets to administer it? As the current Senate version stands, the IRS will go on one of the largest hiring binges of their existence to keep up with the new mandates that they will have to enforce.

4) Standard Mileage rates for 2010 were released. 50c per mile for business. 16.5c per mile for medical and moving expenses. 14c per mile for

charity

5) Cash for Caulkers: Congress will debate various measures to give rebates and tax credits to those that renovate or remodel their houses. The current proposals allow up to 12K of relief in one year.

6) RN deducts costs towards MBA: A recent tax court decision overturned an IRS ruling against a RN who deducted the entire costs of her MBA in Healthcare Management. The RN was already functioning in an administrative capacity even though her educational credentials were not sufficient in many facilities to perform the job she held. The fact that she was not qualifying for a new line of work was key.

State News

Illinois- Ruled that an individual that lived in Nigeria but returned regularly to Illinois, kept a bank account and driver's license there was still required to file a IL tax return as a resident.

New York - Continuing to enforce the some of the strictest legal and tax domicile laws, the NY Division of Tax Appeals determined that an individual who lived in Connecticut and kept a vacation home in NY was a NY tax resident since they spent

Tax News

more than 183 days working in New York City as a commuter. This case will be appealed. *** We have maintained in previous newsletters that clients should avoid working more than 183 days AND maintaining a dwelling within NY more than 11 months. In this ruling, simply having a vacation home was sufficient.

Oregon - residents will soon vote to increase income taxes making their highest marginal rate 11% retroactive to the beginning

of 2009. This is one of the highest rates in the nation.

Wisconsin: Reminded residents that Wisconsin does not follow the federal exclusion of tax rebates and the \$30 per month tax free allowances that are allowed to be paid to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

State Tax Amnesty programs:

New York- runs from January 15, 2010 to March 15, 2010 - If you have a vacation home, may want to pay now :)

Pennsylvania - Begins April 26, 2010 and ends June 18, 2010

That's all for now! See you in 2010 and look forward to serving you again this tax season



www.nipinc.com

*Joseph Smith EA
Enrolled Agent, Admitted
to Practice Before the IRS*

www.traveltax.com
jsmith@traveltax.com
Office 402.379.7818
Fax 877.872.8829
TravelTax LLC
Box 1643
Norfolk, NE 68702



www.ipitravel.com

Heart Failure Patient Supported By DuraHeart™ Left-Ventricular Assist System Receives Successful Donor Transplant After Four Years On Device

(PRWEB) December 22, 2009 – Terumo Heart, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Terumo Corporation, today announced that one of its earliest patients to receive the DuraHeart™ Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS) has received a donor heart transplant, nearly four years after receiving the mechanical circulatory support device. Rudolf Schmidthorst, 63, Germany, became one of the longest-living recipients of this device designed to aid the pumping action of the heart in order to circulate blood throughout his body.

Schmidthorst received the then investigational device in November 2005, taking part in the DuraHeart™ LVAS clinical trial. He was treated by Latif Arusoglu, MD and Michiel Morshuis, MD, and their team at the Clinic for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Heart and Diabetes center NRW, University Hospital of the Ruhr-University of Bochum in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany, as part of a clinical study that would ultimately lead to the device's CE Mark and commercialization in Europe of the DuraHeart LVAS.

"I am so very lucky to have received a new heart, and another new opportunity to live my life," said Ru-

dolf Schmidthorst. "The DuraHeart made it possible for me to reach this day."

A heart attack detected too late caused irreparable damage to the patient's myocardium (layer of the heart wall). Physicians at the Clinic for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Heart and Diabetes center NRW, University Hospital of the Ruhr-University of Bochum, Bad Oeynhausen, Germany, determined Schmidthorst's need for a heart transplant, but were fairly certain he would not survive while waiting for a donor heart without the help of an LVAS.

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"Patients suffering from late-stage heart failure, and in need of a trans-

Healthcare News

plant, are often at the mercy of an unpredictable timeline for a compatible donor heart," said Professor Jan Gummert, M.D., Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Director of the Clinic for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Heart and Diabetes center NRW, University Hospital of the Ruhr-University of Bochum in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany. "Device performance and durability are critical for these patients, and the DuraHeart has consistently shown its ability to deliver long-term benefits. We have tremendous confidence in the device."

The intent of the implant of the DuraHeart LVAS was as a bridge to transplant. Due to the scarcity of donor organs, patients can sometimes be on the waiting list for many months until a suitable donor becomes available. During that time, a patient's condition can deteriorate dramatically until no other alternative is available to them. The left ventricular assist systems offer the patient a second chance while waiting for a suitable donor.

"I have been able to live a normal life with the DuraHeart," said Schmidthorst. "Over the past four years, the external components of the DuraHeart became a



www.freedomhcs.com

"Device performance and durability are critical for these patients, and the DuraHeart has consistently shown its ability to deliver long-term benefits. We have tremendous confidence in the device."



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Healthcare News

Heart Failure Patient Supported By DuraHeart™ Left-Ventricular Assist System Receives Successful Donor Transplant After Four Years On Device



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The DuraHeart LVAS is the first, third-generation rotary pump designed for long-term patient support



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natural extension of my body, allowing me to do most everything and go anywhere. I truly appreciate the second chance that this life-sustaining technology provided to me until a suitable donor heart became available."

"We are grateful for the contribution we are making to the treatment of heart failure patients," said William Pinon, President and CEO, Terumo Heart. "This is a significant milestone that further documents the importance and value of LVAS technology for its potential to improve the length and quality of patients' lives."

The DuraHeart LVAS is the first, third-generation rotary pump designed for long-term patient support that incorporates a centrifugal flow rotary pump with an active magnetically levitated impeller featuring three position sensors and magnetic coils that optimize blood flow, while minimizing device wear and tear. The DuraHeart LVAS is currently being studied in the U.S. in the DuraHeart Pivotal Trial for Bridge-to-Transplant, a multi-center, prospective, non-randomized study, involving 140 patients. The study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the device in helping to sustain patients awaiting heart transplant who are at risk of death due to end-stage left

ventricular failure. The DuraHeart LVAS carries a CE Mark and is currently available for sale in European countries. Additionally, the company has completed clinical trial enrollment for this device in Japan.

About Heart Failure: More than 22 million people suffer from heart failure worldwide with approximately one million new patients diagnosed annually. In the setting of an aging global population, heart failure is the number one reason for hospitalization. The most severely ill patients need heart transplants in order to recover. More than 8,000 people worldwide are on the list of eligible candidates for heart transplants annually, but less than 3,000 will receive a transplant each year. A large number of people who suffer from severe heart failure do not qualify for transplantation due to other health issues. An alternative for these patients is access to artificial mechanical assist devices. Left Ventricular Assist Systems are a type of mechanical circulatory device specifically designed to improve the quality of life of the patients waiting for donor hearts, as well as those who are ineligible for a heart transplant.

About Hospital: In the Clinic for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Heart

and Diabetes Center NRW, Bad Oeynhausen, Germany, all manner of cardiosurgical operating techniques are performed, including surgery on congenital and complex heart defects, with over 4300 open-heart interventions with heart-lung machine per annum and over 1500 interventions without heart-lung machine. As well as the intensive care and transplantation unit, the Clinic has at its disposal four additional wards and a VAD ward for patients with mechanical assist devices. With over 1600 heart and heart-lung transplantations and over 1500 artificial heart operations being performed, the clinic in Bad Oeynhausen is at the very forefront of its international field.

About Terumo Heart, Inc: Terumo Heart, Inc. is a U.S. subsidiary of Terumo Corporation with headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The company's focus is the innovation and introduction of products to improve the quality of healthcare for heart failure patients. Terumo Corporation, located in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading developer, manufacturer and global marketer of a wide array of medical products. DuraHeart is limited to investigational use only in the United States, and is CE marked in Europe. For more information visit



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Highway Hypodermics
1416 S. Main St.
Grace, ID 83241

208-380-9583

Email: highwayhypo@yahoo.com

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One Hospital At A Time!**

www.highwayhypodermics.com

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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 up-dated 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!

Team Staff RX Gains A New Advantage

West Chester, Ohio (December 28, 2009) – Advantage RN and TeamStaff Rx (Tampa, FL) have joined forces in a combined effort to deliver quality healthcare staffing to hospitals and other medical facilities. The two companies compliment one another with resources that will enable a greater breadth of services and opportunities.

“Our acquisition of TeamStaff Rx, which includes a strong presence in the Allied segment of healthcare staffing, will provide synergy with our Travel Nurse and Locum Tenens divisions,” says Matt Price, President and CEO of Advantage RN. “Further,” he continues, “the merger of

resources supports our vision of providing our hospital clients with a complete solution to their supplemental staffing needs. Additionally, we feel the industry knowledge, management talent, and existing hospital relationships TeamStaff Rx brings to the union compliments our internal team at Advantage RN and will further help us meet the industry challenges of 2010 and continue our strong historical growth rate as the economy improves.”

Serving 350 hospitals nationwide, Advantage RN generated nearly \$50 million in revenues in 2008. Its five-year averaged growth rate of 51% has led to the company

being recognized in the last two years as one of the fastest growing staffing companies in the country by Staffing Industry Analysts of Los Altos, CA. It also ranks among the top 15 largest travel nurse staffing companies of the estimated 300 in business. Although 2009 has seen an

easing of the nurse shortage due to the economy, the benefits of hiring an experienced, high quality nurse will always ensure the continuity of patient safety and optimized bed capacity required by hospitals in any economy.

TeamStaff Rx employees will join Advantage RN's internal staff that recruit qualified nurses, therapists, Allied

professionals and operating room technicians through various marketing channels. The company's Joint Commission certification ensures that all of its travel personnel are immediately ready to meet client hospitals' most stringent professional credential requirements.

Headquartered in West Chester, OH, just north of Cincinnati, Advantage RN has employed almost 500 registered nurses and operating room technicians, as well as 80 associates, in its Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, Nebraska, and Wyoming offices. Adding the TeamStaff Rx group will open opportunities in Allied staffing as well as other modalities.