**TRENDS IN TRAVEL NURSING**

1. MR. RAVIKANT SHARMA

MEDICAL SURGICAL NURSING (CVTS)

COLLEGE OF NURSING, AUTONOMOUS STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE, FIROZABAD, UTTARPRADESH, INDIA

rvkntsharma03@gmail.com

1. MS. VISHVANGI CHOUHAN

M.SC. NURSING (PURSUING)

GEETANJALI COLLEGE OF NURSING, GEETANJALI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

vishvangichouhan3@gmail.com

**INTRODUCTION:**

* Travel nurse staffing agencies have seen a dramatic ride in the need for qualified staff, it is due to widespread nursing shortage & lack of healthcare workers to take critical role in area of this field. Because travel nurse agencies are so in need, there has never been a better time to look into travel nursing than right now. The future of the travel nursing industry is only expected to hold more and more employment opportunities for qualified nurses as time goes on.
* Travel nursing is a rapidly growing industry that has seen significant growth in recent years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for registered nurses is expected to grow by 7% from 2019 to 2029, with an additional 221,900 jobs expected to be added to the workforce. This growth is due in part to the aging baby boomer population, which requires more healthcare services.
* Travel nursing is a unique subset of the nursing industry that allows healthcare professionals to work on a temporary basis in different locations.
* Travel nursing can be traced as far back as the 19th century when pioneer such as Florence nightingale led a group of 38 nurse from London to Constantinople to serve the growing number of sick & injured British soldiers during Crimean war.
* In modern time, travel nursing in America expanded rapidly in response to the widespread nursing shortage.
* New Orleans became the first area of hire contracted nurse brought in from other parts of country.
* Travel nursing has been a part of the modern nursing workforce far decades & it is now a strategic staffing solution.
* Travel nurse will always be needed & staffing agency will always be a reliable way to attain a positive lifestyle & financial company match benefit to suitable on future.

**TRENDS OF TRAVEL NURSING ARE:**

1. Reliance on Travel Nursing and Per Diem Staff Will Continue
2. Increased Focus on Nurses’ Mental Health
3. Travel Nursing Will Grow Within Hospitals
4. Shift towards value-based care
5. Rise of Tele-health
6. **Reliance on Travel Nursing and Per Diem Staff Will Continue**

Healthcare institutions will continue to rely on travel and per diem nurses to fill the gaps in staffing and ensure safe patient care. When the demand exploded during the pandemic, travel nurse hourly rates increase by over 200% from 2019-2022.

As travel nurse salaries rose, so did the number of RNs who quit their full-time employment to make more money traveling. However, this high level of pay during COVID was not sustainable – and has put many hospitals in financial risk.

However, while strategies are in place to increase the number of new full-time nurses, the reality is it will take at least two years for newly-trained nurses to be on boarded. In the meantime, hospitals will continue to hire travel nurses to fill the gaps – but most likely at lower pay levels than during the pandemic.

1. **Increased Focus on Nurses’ Mental Health**

COVID took a big mental toll on many healthcare professionals – none more than nurses. Stress, fatigue, and debilitating burnout was prevalent in health facilities across the country – which is why mental health awareness for nurses will be a trend in 2023.

Examples of this trend include employee assistance programs, or EAPs, which are designed to help with short-term frustrations and changing life events that are affecting mental health.

The ANA and American Nurse Foundation’s Well-Being Initiative offers free tools to support the mental health and resilience of nurses. They also provide a list of free and discounted therapy options.

In addition, virtual therapy and support groups, meditation and sleep apps, journaling, exercise programs, and other programs for nurses will be widely available this year.

1. **Travel Nursing Will Grow Within Hospitals**

As a way to combat some of the staff nursing exoduses to travel positions over the past few years, more hospitals across the nation are offering internal travel nurse programs. Because travel nursing became hugely popular – and profitable for nurses – during the pandemic, many hospitals lost core staff nurses as a result.

Large hospital systems are beginning to launch travel nurse program across multiple states and large geographical areas. Like traditional travel nursing contracts through staffing agencies, these internal travel nurse programs offer short-term contracts, high pay, and sometimes, land limited benefits such as health insurance.

Nurses looking to try short-term contracts, those who want work flexibility but want to remain local, or those who don’t need benefits may get the most from such programs. A good way to learn about internal travel nurse options is to contact an experienced healthcare staffing firm.

1. **Shift towards value-based care**

Healthcare providers are increasingly focused on providing high-quality care at a lower cost. This means that travel nurses may be called upon to provide specialized care to patients with complex medical needs.

1. **Rise of Tele-health**

Tele-health allows healthcare providers to connect with patients remotely, reducing the need for in-person visits. This trend is particularly important in rural areas, where healthcare facilities may be far from patients’ homes. Travel nurses may be called upon to provide Tele-health services to patients who cannot travel to a healthcare facility.

**Other trends: -**

* Trends in healthcare show that healthcare staffing agencies are help to fill critical role in hospitals like cardiologist, radiologists, surgical assistance, dental specialist & mental health professionals etc..
* One exciting way that the nursing field is developing to benefit travel nurses is the expansion of remote assignments using telehealth. Travel nursing job will increasingly be able to offer assignments in healthcare setting where you will perform your duties remotely using video convenient & and accessible for both patient & nurses.
* One trend that seems to be increasing in the nursing field is a shorter assignment duration for agency nurses. Travel nurse will have more flexibility with their work & will be able to move around the country & find better pay more often.
* Travel nurses usually lave their jobs & national council labor statistics show that working on the right team will greatly improve your quality of life.

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