

How to explain what you do

Many people outside of the medical field have never heard of travel nursing. Isn't wild that there is such a cool job out there that many don't know about. You would think that the entire world would know and yet it has managed to stay somewhat of a secret.

I guess you don't see traveling nurses on the news very often, but they should be. We may not even have a nursing shortage if enough people found out. I have more than one person email me about switching careers so they can become a traveling nurse. Most of these people already have what would be considered great careers, but they really want the opportunity to travel and their job doesn't provide that.

I often explain travel nursing as sort of a temporary staffing job, except the jobs are not always local. Often the jobs are throughout the United States and the companies will pay you well to work there and get there. They will provide you housing and you get many tax benefits.

Some people fondly joke around and refer to traveling nurses as "rent-a-nurses." It's sort of true. The hospital can rent you for a certain price from the rental (or travel nurse) company. You are transported to the facility and housed there for a certain period of time. The only real difference is the amount of empowerment you have. With the above scenario it sounds like you have no choice and you are just rented out. However, this is not the case at all. You have all the choices in the world. You are empowered more than you have ever been before in nursing. If you don't want to take the assignment, you can refuse to go. If the pay is not acceptable, you can choose not to take it. If the assignment sounds good, but you don't want to spend time in that area of the country, you simply tell them. You create the assignment that you want. You are a rental car with a mind of its own. You have to agree to go before that person can rent you out. That's the beauty of travel nursing besides being able to see the country. It's very empowering.