

## **Start traveling with good solid footing**

### **Question:**

I graduated May 03 and have 2 years experience on a Med/Surg Oncology floor. I've recently begun an internship in the OR, which I really like. I would like to travel nurse in the near future and wanted to know if I needed to complete 2 years in my new specialty before traveling.

### **Response:**

If you are going from "floor" nursing to the OR and you like it, this indicated your level of flexibility. This flexibility will serve you well in your travels. Going from the floor to the OR can be difficult for some nurses because people relate differently in the operating room. The environment can be very matter a fact and tense at times. Everyone is on a schedule and delays are not easily tolerated. You may even know a doctor that you always thought of as a cheerful guy, who is completely different when he enters the operating room. If this change doesn't bother you, you will do great as a traveler.

Travelers deal with many changing environments and personalities. Technically, one year experience in the OR is all you need to start traveling, but I would recommend 2 years. One year in the OR provides you will many of the basics, but you may be much more frustrated than if you wait one more year. The first year in the OR, you learn the basics, but in 2 years it really starts to sink in and you can make more sound decisions. This knowledge will carry through your travels and making decisions in new places. . If you leave with one year experience, you will probably make it, but you may doubt yourself more as you are faced with new and different ways of doing things. You want to leave with a good solid footing.

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