

System Inadequacies: They drive you crazy?

What if you are on assignment and you see system inadequacies that you think the hospital or nurses should change? This happens a lot. The first inclination is to say something, but think twice before doing so. If the system works and it doesn't cause safety issues, it may not be the best thing for you to mention.

Having a traveler suggest changes at a hospital is like a visitor coming into your home and telling you how you should be doing things differently. If the situation does have to do with safety issue then these items are worth taking the risk. However, suggestions must be handled very carefully. It may serve you well.

You never know what will happen in your life. For instance, one traveler I met recently, Tammy, voices her opinions loudly to whoever would listen in her department. She focused on all the inadequacies and how things could be done differently. Toward the end of her assignment, she met someone in the area she wanted to stay and date. However, when she tried to get a permanent position in the hospital, they told her it was no longer available. She was very disappointed. Then it became clear to her that her behavior had caused everyone around her to feel uncomfortable. She felt bad, but it was too late. The damage had been done.

While you may want to share all your knowledge, it may not be appropriate in all circumstances. You may be better off not saying anything. However, if you feel it is too important not to say anything, make sure to go to the appropriate person regarding the issue and to speak with great forethought and tact. This can go a long way.