

Travel Atmosphere

When you walk into a restaurant, you get a certain feeling depending on the lighting, the furniture, and overall mood in the room. The atmosphere of a hospital is the same way except it depends more on things like the stress level of the employees, the acuity of the patients, and the efficiency of the overall system.

Recently, a traveler sent in the following question: as a first time traveler, what kind of assignment type atmosphere should I expect? i.e. real low staffing levels. Before you take an assignment, are you given this info?

I would love to have one patent answer to this question, but just like any restaurant or person you meet, each one is different. How each person perceives that environment is also somewhat different.

Most of the time agencies have no way of knowing what the atmosphere is like at each hospital. This is why your phone interview with the hospital is so important. This is not only their opportunity to interview you, but your opportunity to interview them. Let's face it, many of them will try to paint a rosy picture so you will want to work for them. Therefore, it is up to you to come up with some concrete questions to ask regarding things that affect you at work. The nurse to patient ratio is one example of a concrete question. Can you think of anything else that affects your stress level at work? You may want to ask about what kind of support staff is available and what are their duties. You can even ask how receptive the staff is to travelers. Then, listen to not only the words they say, but see if you can get a feeling behind the words.

Think about the place you work now. How would you describe it? Write the description down and then form questions from that description. For example: let's say you work in a facility that is large, unorganized, and very stressful because The questions you ask may be as such: What size is your facility, how would you rate the stress level among employees there on a scale of 1 to 5, can you tell me something about the organization of your department? You may be surprised what you find out. Remember, interviews go both ways.

Finally, make sure to show up to your assignment with a positive attitude. Once you enter their world, you become part of creating that atmosphere.

The user's name is : Gina