

## Travel Nursing and Quality Healthcare

**I am currently in nursing school at Southeastern Louisiana University and am having some trouble getting information about a topic. I am involved in a debate concerning whether travel nursing is contributing to a decline in the quality of health care or not. Do you know of any journals, researches or sites that could help on this topic?**

This is an interesting topic. I would be interested to hear both sides of the topic. I would naturally like to think that travel nursing can help increase quality of health care.

Traveling nurses provide nurses when there are no nurses to be found to fill an immediate opening. Short staffing equals a decline in quality healthcare. While a traveling nurse fills the position, the hospital has time to interview qualified candidates and find a good one to fill the position while maintaining safe staffing number.

Also, most traveling nurses have much experience in nursing and have the added advantage of having learned different ways and techniques in the field from working in a variety of places. Often, the traveler has much to offer in ideas and experience to anyone that will listen.

That being said, I do think that depending on how the hospital handles the situation and how the travelers themselves handle the situation, traveling nurses can at time decrease the morale at a facility. It's up to management to present the travelers in a positive light in relief for the staff, rather than people who cost more for the hospital and who are making more than the rest of the staff. Travelers should be presented as a well needed and appreciated addition to the healthcare team and a visitor to be treated graciously while they are there.

Being in nursing school, you would know the need for more nursing schools. The quality of care starts with the schools. In California for example, people are flocking to try and get into nursing school, but there are only so many slots. I know someone who recently applied for nursing school with 500 other applicant and there are only 30 slots. She would make a wonderful nurse, but her chances of getting in are slim. Once someone does make it to nursing school, it is vital for them to really teach nurses what they need to know and the theory behind it. Nursing school should be the same length for everyone to standardize the profession.

Another source you might want to try on this topic is HT (Healthcare traveler) Magazine. They have a magazine and website. <http://www.healthcaretraveler.com/healthcaretraveler/>