

WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST WEEK OF WORK

Being a traveler is rewarding, but it isn't always easy, especially the first week of work. The ability to adapt to new situations is such an important skill for the traveler to manage. I have found that it helps one cope, and therefore adapt, when he or she knows what to expect, at worst. Expect the unexpected. Not every assignment is the same, but overall, the first week is hectic. You are bound to experience at some time or another, a variety of emotions. You may feel frustrated, incompetent, and unpopular. However, depending on your sensitivity and environmental support, these feelings should ease up within a week and be virtually gone within 2 weeks.

Expect the unexpected

Just like any new relationship, you will not be able to predict how your experience will be with each hospital you visit. This is the beauty of it all. Traveling wouldn't be as adventurous if you already knew how things would turn out. One hospital may provide 3 days orientation and lots of encouragement, while other hospitals may provide 15 minutes of orientation with very little support. One hospital I worked at gave me 15 minutes of orientation and then everyone went home and I was the only nurse on the evening shift. Luckily I had been traveling along time by then and could appreciate the challenge.

Expect resistance

Many times permanent employees have a secret wish to be travelers themselves, but obligations or fears hold them back. At the same time, they often forget that travelers may have put obligations aside and left loved ones to take an assignment. In turn, they feel resentful that travelers are not held back. On top of that, travelers make more money for doing the same job. Some employees aren't jealous, but they feel intimidated by your level of experiences. Finally, a few people always resist change. Being a new person in their environment represents change.

Expect to feel frustrated

Being a new person, trying to adapt, meeting resistance, and not knowing where supplies are located can be frustrating. This is normal. Yes, traveling can be difficult, and unpredictable. This is all part of the challenge that makes traveling so great. It challenges your skills and personal limits. You see and do things.... you never thought possible.