

Healthcare Traveler Guide

How to become a medical traveler

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Becoming a traveling medical professional = very rewarding decision

If you've ever thought about becoming a traveling medical professional, it's a good time to travel while doing something you love. Becoming a healthcare traveler isn't as difficult as you may think. There are several factors that come into play when deciding to travel as a healthcare professional though, so we're here to give you the rundown on this exciting career path, so you can make the most informed decisions on your future medical career.

Once you start your career as a traveling healthcare professional, you'll realize it's the most rewarding decision you could have made for yourself and your future.

How to get started on traveling

To take the steps toward becoming a traveling healthcare professional, the first thing you need to do is research. There are a few things you need to know when choosing a travel agency. This is a very important step, so you shouldn't just jump into it and sign on with the first company you see. You'll need to find the right account manager to connect with.

Make sure you interview the account manager you're working with, because interviewing goes both ways—your connection and comfort level matter. A recruiter is your life line when you're out on the road, so you should never feel alone throughout the process.

While research includes the task of finding a travel agency, it also includes the "fun part" of the research, like which locations you'd like to visit while on your next travel assignment. Luckily, Fusion has your back and has made the process of finding your first and ideal travel assignment as easy as a simple search button and a traveler profile. This is where you finally get to put your career dreams into action.



The qualifications and requirements to become a traveler

As with every job, there will be some requirements needed to get hired on. You've probably already made the first step by getting educated in your field. Each healthcare division is different though, so travel requirements depending on your healthcare field can vary.

Lab

Being a traveling MLT is an exciting way to gain experience in healthcare. In addition to a degree, traveling MLTs need 1-2 years of experience before traveling.

Nursing

Anyone in the nursing industry interested in traveling will need to have a minimum of one year experience under their belt before being eligible to hit the road. Some divisions may require two years.

Home Health

If you're ready to move forward in your passion as a traveling home health nurse, you'll need a nursing degree and one year of experience in the field.

LTC

In order to travel as a Long Term Care RN, you'll need a nursing degree and one year of experience in the field.

Therapy

PT's, OT's, PTA's, COTA's and SLP's can join the travel healthcare industry once they have completed their education, received their degree, and get their license. For example, physical therapists who have received their Doctorate in PT.

Cath Lab

Pairing cath lab skills with a career as a medical traveler means a two or four year degree, specialized certifications, and cath lab experience in a hospital setting.

Cardiopulmonary

A traveling cardiopulmonary rehabilitation specialist needs a four year degree, specialized certifications, and cardiology clinic experience.

Radiology

When looking for radiology tech traveling jobs, traveling rad techs require a two or four year degree and one to three years experience.

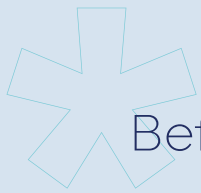
Before you can land that new assignment, you'll need to apply to get the license in the state you are wanting to work. The best part is most staffing agencies will reimburse you for the license cost after you receive it. Apply for licenses as early as possible, because some states can have a lengthy approval process.

Lab Licensing

For most MT/MLT positions, the moment you graduate you're guaranteed to be able to work in 39 states right away. However, in the other eleven states, you have you apply for the license there. These states are Nevada, Montana, North Dakota, Tennessee, Hawaii, Florida, West Virginia, New York, Rhode Island, California, and Louisiana. Once you get on the road, you can start the application process to those other states.

Learn more:

- › [MT/MLT License](#)
- › [Hisotech License](#)
- › [Phlebotomy License](#)



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Nursing Licensing

Nursing Licensure Compact is a license that allows nurses to have one multistate license, with the ability to practice in any of those states. You need to have permanent residency in at least one of those states to qualify. If you're not currently living in a compact license state or want to travel outside of the compact license states, you'll need to apply for an individual state license for every assignment taken.

You'll need to check nursing license requirements per state for home health and LTC nursing.

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Therapy Licensing

State licensing is regulated in all areas of therapy. Specifically, the PT Compact offers physical therapists a fast and effective way to start practicing in states under one license.

Learn more:

[› PT and PTA](#)

[› OT and COTA](#)

[› SLP](#)



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Cath Lab Licensing

Most states require a those working as a Cath Lab Tech to be licensed through an exam and state-approved training. Certifications can be obtained from Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI) RCIS certification.

Cardiopulmonary Licensing

Most states require a Cardiopulmonary Technician to be licensed through an exam and state-approved training. Certifications can be obtained from Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI).

Radiology Licensing

More than 75 percent of states have licensing laws covering radiology practices. In those states, you must obtain a state license before you can work as a radiologic technologist. In addition, many states use ARRT exam scores and credentials when making licensing decisions.

The 4-1-1 on travel assignments

To break down the time spent, most of the assignments you'll take as a traveling medical professional will be 13 weeks. Sometimes your facility will want to extend a contract with you, which means that both you and the facility will need to agree to the extension and determine the length of renewal. In that case, you'll get a chance to stay at your current assignment even longer, giving you ample opportunity to explore your new city and really hone your skills at your facility. If you decide to not take an extension offer, no biggie—your account manager can help you find a new placement once your current assignment is up.

When it comes down to the details of your assignment, at the end of the day, it's up to you to decide which assignments suit you best. Fusion will be there for you every step of the way to help back you up as you create your own traveler destiny.



Understanding per diems and bill rates

Besides having the passion to help others, you still have a job to do, right? And for that job, you need to be able to make a living.

How do you know what a fair pay rate is?

There are so many different components that go into your contract. Regardless of what any staffing agency tells you, you'll always have the ability to check to make sure you're getting what you deserve and what is legal.

What is per diem exactly?

According to the General Services Administration (GSA), "Per diem is the allowance for lodging (excluding taxes), meals and incidental expenses." The GSA provides information about the per diem allowed in every city and state. This can be extremely useful when considering what the hospital pay rate is, as well as the cost of living. Your account manager will most likely be providing you with two options for your contract:

- 1 A higher take home rate, but you'll have to find your own housing (research the area, pay the deposit, be responsible for utilities, etc.)
- 2 A lower take home rate, but that option will allow your company to find housing for you and take care of all the nitty gritty details of setting it up.

Are you a new grad?

If you're a new grad, there are some huge perks to getting started as a traveling medical professional. Maybe you don't know which modality you want to work in yet or the idea of traveling is making you nervous. Traveling can give you the opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone and work in a variety of positions before focusing on specific areas of the healthcare industry. It also gives you a chance to see other people in your profession, learn how they do their paper processing, work with different patients, or even go through their daily routines.

Fusion's student outreach team has resources to help get you started, including a virtual booth with all the information you need to seriously choose your own adventure. You'll get real-time information about mentorship, new grad travel basics, and weekly video updates.

Additional new grad resources:

[Mentorship eBook](#)

[Fusion-U Facebook page](#)

[New Grad Info Guide](#)

[Lunch & Learn info](#)

[New Grad Map](#)



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Think about all the opportunities you'll have
as a traveling medical professional.

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