

Launch Your Travel Healthcare Career: The Ultimate Guide to Adventure, Freedom & Higher Pay



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Everything you need to confidently land high-paying assignments and thrive on the road—with insider tips from Anders Group experts

What You'll Learn:

- How travel healthcare works
- Who qualifies and what credentials are needed
- Where to find the best assignments
- How to maximize pay and benefits
- Housing strategies that save money
- How to overcome common challenges on the road
- Tips for staying healthy, organized, and growing your career

Who This Guide Is For:

- Nurses, therapists, and allied health professionals considering travel
- New grads in eligible specialties
- Experienced clinicians ready for change
- Anyone curious about making more money while seeing the country

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Why Choose Travel Healthcare?

Imagine waking up in a new city every 13 weeks—earning top pay, exploring new places, and building your healthcare career on your terms. That's what travel healthcare offers.

Benefits of Travel Healthcare:

- **Higher Pay:** Travel healthcare workers often earn more than permanent staff due to the flexibility and urgency of assignments.
- **Adventure:** Live in and explore new cities and states while doing meaningful work.
- **Flexibility:** Choose where and when you work. Take time off between contracts or line up back-to-back assignments.
- **Career Growth:** Work in diverse environments, expand your skill set, and build an exceptional resume.

Anders Pro Tip

Many travelers use short-term assignments to discover what kind of facility or region suits them long term.



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What Is Travel Healthcare?

Definition:

Travel healthcare is a temporary employment arrangement (typically 13 weeks) in which licensed professionals fill staffing needs at healthcare facilities across the U.S.

Who Can Become a Traveler?

- **Licensure:** You must hold a valid license. For nurses, a Compact State License allows practice in multiple states.
- **Experience:** Most travelers need 1-2 years of experience, though therapy often allows new grads.
- **Specialty Requirements:** ICU, NICU, and pediatric roles may require specialized training.

Roles in Travel Healthcare:

- **Travel Nurses:** ICU, ER, Labor & Delivery, and more
- **Therapists:** PT, OT, SLP, PTA, COTA
- **Technicians:** Lab, Radiology (Ultrasound, CT, MRI, Mammo, IR), Respiratory
- **Other Professionals:** Pharmacists, Social Workers, Healthcare Administrators Anders



Be open to floating or cross-training opportunities—they can boost your pay and expand future options.

How the Process Works

Step-by-Step Breakdown:

- 1. Find an Agency or Recruiter:** A trusted recruiter (like those at Anders Group) matches you to ideal jobs, submits your profile, negotiates pay, and supports you from start to finish.
- 2. Sign a Contract:** Each contract outlines pay, hours, housing, benefits, and more.
- 3. Prep for the Job:** Complete compliance paperwork, licensing, background checks, and vaccinations.
- 4. Begin Assignment:** Travel to the facility, complete onboarding, and begin work.
- 5. End or Extend:** Wrap up the assignment or extend if mutually agreeable.

What a Great Agency Can Help With:

- Helps you find assignments aligned with your goals
- Negotiates competitive pay packages
- Provides healthcare and malpractice insurance
- Guides you through paperwork and transitions
- Be your support, advocate, and ally as you travel nationwide

Pay & Benefits

How Pay Works:

- Hourly pay + stipends (housing, meals, travel)
- Benefits often include medical, dental, and vision insurance
- Pay varies by specialty, location, and urgency

Housing Options:

- **Stipend:** Take a housing stipend and book your own place via Airbnb, VRBO, Furnished Finders, etc.
- **Agency Housing:** Anders Group can arrange furnished apartments if preferred

Insurance:

- Day-one medical, dental, vision available through Anders Group
- Malpractice coverage included

Additional Benefits as Needed:

- Licensure reimbursement
- Travel allowances
- Car Rentals
- Etc.



Be wary of agencies advertising "free" benefits—the cost may be buried in lower hourly rates.

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Finding the Right Assignments

Working with Agencies, Look for:

- Strong reputation and verified traveler reviews
- Full-time support staff (not bots or chat-only platforms)
- Nationwide placements and specialty depth
- Transparent pay discussions

Choosing a Destination:

- Consider cost of living, housing affordability, weather, lifestyle, and proximity to home
- Most travelers opt to arrange their own housing to maximize stipends and choose neighborhood vibes

Interviewing for a Role:

- **Submitting:** Provide resume, references, and skills checklists to create your traveler profile
- **Facility Interviews:** Ask about team dynamics, support structure, schedule, and onboarding process



Remember, the interview is a two-way street. It's your chance to ask questions, too—so don't hold back. Make sure the role and facility are the right fit for you.



Housing & Accommodations

Housing Options:

1. **Stipend Housing (most common):** You find your own housing and pocket any savings.
2. **Agency Housing:** Anders Group arranges and pays for your housing. Less common since travelers have found resources to find much cheaper housing, leading to more take home for themselves.

Top Housing Resources:

- Airbnb
- Furnished Finders
- VRBO
- Facebook housing groups

Things to Consider:

- Distance to facility
- Neighborhood safety
- Access to groceries, entertainment, transit



Anders Pro Tip

Travel with essentials in your car (sheets, cookware, Wi-Fi hotspot) so you don't have to purchase them at each location.

Living the Travel Life

Adventure & Balance:

- Use your days off to hike, explore museums, or try new restaurants
- Build a schedule that gives you downtime to recharge
- Connect with fellow travelers in your area

Staying Healthy:

- Establish routines quickly (meal prep, gym, sleep)
- Explore your surroundings to feel at home
- Use mental health apps or telehealth services



Anders Pro Tip

Keep a journal or photo blog of your assignments—great for memories and resume building.



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Common Challenges & How to Overcome Them

Homesickness:

- Stay in touch with friends and family through regular video calls
- Bring familiar items from home (photos, blankets)
- Join local communities and social groups

Workplace Adjustment:

- Be proactive about asking questions and learning new systems
- Keep communication open with your recruiter for support
- Embrace flexibility and continuous learning

Anders Pro Tip

Most contracts are only 13 weeks—a great opportunity to test the waters without long-term commitment.



Travel Taxes 101

Tax Basics:

- Anders Group travelers are W-2 employees
- Taxes are withheld automatically through ADP Payroll Services
- You'll receive a W-2 covering all states where you worked
- May need to file non-resident returns for multiple states

Recommended:

- Use online tax software or hire a professional familiar with travel healthcare



Establish and maintain a consistent tax home to qualify for non-taxed stipends.



Tips for Success

Stay Organized:

- Use apps to track licenses, CEUs, and assignments
- Save documents like contracts, paystubs, and timesheets

Grow Your Career:

- Take challenging assignments to build your skills
- Ask for feedback at every facility
- Consider certifications in high-demand specialties

Your Journey Starts Here!

Travel healthcare is more than a job—it's a lifestyle filled with flexibility, adventure, and purpose. Whether you're in it to explore, earn more, or grow professionally, Anders Group is here to help you get started.



Ready to Take the Leap?

Connect with an Anders Group recruiter today. We'll help you build a custom plan for your first (or next) assignment and answer all your questions.

Visit andersgroup.org/contact-us to connect with a recruiter or get answers to your questions.

Explore open opportunities at jobs.andersgroup.org today!

Your next adventure is waiting—and we're honored to take it with you.

