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Health Care

Nuclear and vascular techs see wages jump

The demand for temporary nuclear medicine and vascular technicians has grown nationwide, according to a yet-to-be released survey by Irving-based **Med Travelers**. The staffing company saw its requests for nuclear med techs rise 7% in the past year, while demand for vascular sonographers grew 4%.

"Sometimes we have three or four openings for every nuclear-med tech we work with," said **Nikki Taylor**, Med Travelers' vice president. "Consequently, hourly wages have shot up for those specialties. Traveling imaging techs can find as much work as they want in any state."

Nuclear techs hired by Med Travelers averaged \$28 an hour last year, but wages have risen to approximately \$36 an hour. Vascular sonographers' wages have risen to an average \$32 an hour compared to \$26 an hour last year.

The demand is due in large part to high staff turnover and permanent hiring delays, Taylor said. Midlevel providers often join

the temporary ranks out of frustration with workplace issues or the lack of advancement opportunities.

"We saw the same phenomenon last year with radiologic tech, and they still drive demand in the temporary midlevel industry," she said.

Radiologic technicians' temporary wages rose from an average of \$23 an hour in 2000 to \$25 an hour. The demand for temporary radiologic technicians remained the same, while requests for computerized tomography techs declined by 3%.

The average length of an assignment was 20 days for the more than 2,600 techs responding.



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