How Foreign Nurse Recruitment Can Help Solve the U.S. Nursing Shortage

Being rushed to a hospital is a harrowing experience. When you are in crisis, who are the people that consistently see to your needs? In many scenarios, nurses fill this role.

Nurses are an integral part of the U.S. healthcare system. They administer medication, care for wounds, coordinate care, perform physical exams, and can even help diagnose patients and prescribe medicine.

There is no disputing that nurses are part of the foundation of healthcare. They provide the manpower that is much needed in hospitals. By 2020, however, it is projected that the U.S. will be 20% below the number of nurses needed to take care of people properly.

How Bad is the Nursing Shortage?

There will be more than 1 million jobs for RNs by 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s projections. That’s a healthy job market for people who want a stable occupation. But is it too many jobs?

Vanderbilt University researchers noted that the shortage in 2025 will be twice the size of any nursing shortage ever. Why is this happening? Two major reasons:

1. Close to 700,000 nurses will retire or leave the labor force by 2024.
2. Baby boomers are reaching older age (65 and older), which means the senior population will increase by 75% by 2030 AND they will be requiring more medical services.

On top of these alarming statistics, new nurses are not replacing retiring nurses at a 1-to-1 ratio. Many of these retiring nurses have 20, 30, and even 40 years of experience under their belts. When hiring to fill open positions, more often than not, hospitals only have a choice to hire new graduates and nurses with less than 5 years of experience.

And the problem isn’t getting better. Nursing schools had to turn away 79,659 qualified applicants from nursing programs in 2012 due to insufficient faculty, classroom space, and budget constraints. Nurses aren’t given enough incentive to gain further education and become educators. Instead, they rather work in their primary field, as it pays more and typically offers more rewards. With this shortage getting worse, nurses are expected to handle higher patient loads, which means patients aren’t going to get the care they need and nurses will be vying for more comfortable positions elsewhere (leading to higher turnover).

So, how can our country overcome this pressing issue?

**Reduce the Shortage By Hiring Foreign Nurses**

**U.S. healthcare institutions have been hiring foreign nurses for more than 50 years.** With the shortage becoming a reality, hospitals are turning to talented nurses from around the world more often.

International nurses are certified, English-speaking, and excited for the opportunity to live the American Dream. They are not taking jobs from American workers; they are supplementing your current staff and providing care and comfort to your patients.

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