

# Staff Care®

*The Leader in Locum Tenens Staffing*

Member of the National Association of Locum Tenens Organizations 

## Summary Report

**2008 Review of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends  
Based on 2007 Data**

### Overview

Staff Care is a national physician staffing firm specializing in matching temporary (i.e., *locum tenens*) physicians in all specialties with hospitals, medical groups, government facilities and other health care organizations. Established in 1992, Staff Care is a division of AMN Healthcare, the largest health care staffing company in the United States.

This report marks Staff Care's sixth Review of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends. The purpose of the Review is to track trends in the temporary physician staffing market and to provide benchmark data that may be useful to physicians, health care executives, academics, journalists and others who monitor developments in the health care staffing industry.

### Methodology

The 2008 Review is based on telephone surveys conducted by Staff Care marketing and recruiting professionals, and on an internal review of the firm's 2007 temporary physician staffing assignments. Data from past Staff Care Reviews are included where applicable.

**Part I** of the Review examines trends among the users of temporary physician services, including acute care hospitals, medical groups, and state-supported facilities such as behavioral health centers and correctional facilities.

**Part II** of the Review examines trends among physicians working on a temporary (*locum tenens*) basis, including how these physicians select temporary practice opportunities, how long they intend to work on a temporary basis, how they are perceived by colleagues, etc.

**Part III** of the survey is a review of the temporary physician staffing assignments Staff Care conducted in calendar year 2007. The breakdown of temporary physician "days requested" by specialty is offered as an indicator of current physician supply and demand trends in *locum tenens*. Part III also includes the number of "temporary physician days" Staff Care filled in 2007.

The telephone surveys were conducted over the four month period from September, 2007 to December, 2007. Respondents were self-selected and included both Staff Care clients and non-clients, as well as physicians who have been matched to temporary assignments by Staff Care and those who have not.

# PART I

## Survey of Temporary Physician Users Including Hospital, Medical Group, and Government Health Facility Managers

Number of Surveys Completed = 730

### Questions Asked and Responses Received

1. Have you used temporary (locum tenens) physicians to supplement your existing staff any time during the last 12 months?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
Yes	77%	79%
No	23%	21%

2. Are you currently looking for locum tenens physicians to supplement your existing staff?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Yes	54%	53%	51%	53%
No	46%	47%	49%	47%

3. How difficult is it to find locum tenens coverage today compared to 12 months ago?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
More difficult	23%	20%	23%	18%
Less difficult	16%	17%	18%	16%
The same	61%	63%	59%	66%

4. In a typical month, how many locum tenens physicians do you use?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
None	38%	36%
1 - 3	53%	56%
4 - 6	7%	6%
7 or more	2%	2%

**5. Why do you or would you typically use a locum tenens physician?**

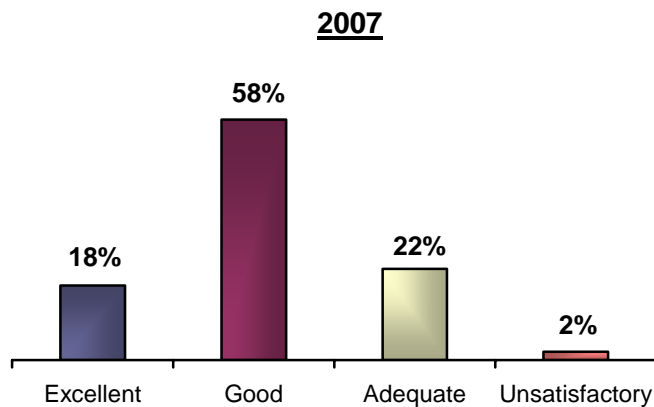
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Fill in until a permanent doctor is found	65%	72%	36%
Fill in for staff who have left	61%	71%	68%
Vacation/continuing medical education	50%	50%	54%
Meet rising patient demand	16%	16%	13%
Fill in during peak usage times	15%	31%	n/a
Test market a new service	3%	4%	2%

**6. What are the benefits/drawbacks of using locum tenens physicians?**

<b>Benefits</b>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Allows continual treatment of patients	80%	70%	76%	72%
Prevent revenue loss	53%	43%	44%	36%
Prevents existing staff burnout	34%	39%	27%	27%
Immediate availability	34%	54%	44%	44%
Cost	6%	4%	4%	2%
Other	6%	4%	5%	7%

<b>Drawbacks</b>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Cost	87%	81%	82%	80%
Familiarity with department/practice	50%	52%	45%	49%
Learning equipment/procedures	26%	22%	22%	n/a
Other	18%	28%	12%	4%

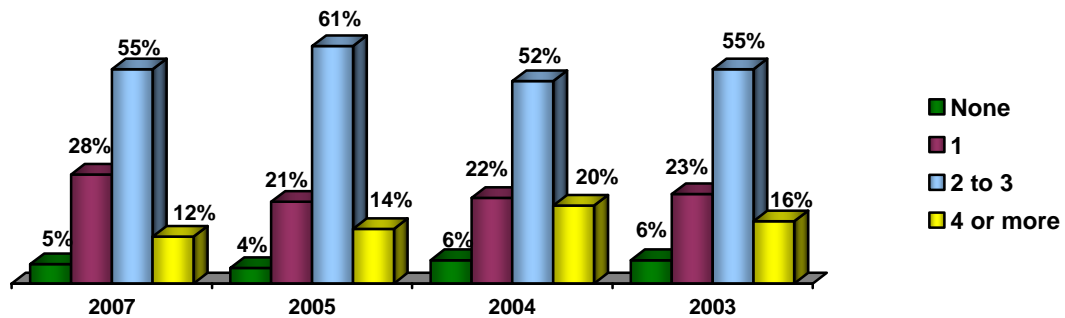
**7. What is your perception of the general skill level of locum tenens physicians?**



8. At your facility, how are locum tenens providers viewed by:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b><u>COLLEAGUES</u></b>		
Accepted by	67%	74%
Not accepted	2%	>1%
Tolerated	21%	16%
Unsure	10%	11%
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>		
Accepted	68%	77%
Not accepted	3%	>1%
Tolerated	19%	15%
Unsure	10%	8%
<b><u>PATIENTS</u></b>		
Accepted	63%	65%
Not accepted	1%	1%
Tolerated	14%	17%
Unsure	22%	17%

9. When conducting your search for locum tenens physicians, how many search firms/ staffing agencies do you generally work with?



10. What are the most important factors in selecting a temporary staffing firm?

	<u>2007*</u>	<u>2005*</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003*</u>
Availability of candidates/ promptness	73%	70%	32%	53%
Quality of physicians provided	68%	69%	37%	61%
Customer service	50%	39%	7%	26%
Cost	49%	48%	19%	39%
Contract flexibility	35%	21%	2%	8%
Malpractice insurance	24%	16%	1%	10%
Other	6%	3%	3%	3%

\*Multiple responses possible in 2007, 2005, 2003

**11. Please rate locum tenens physicians compared to your permanent medical staff in the following three areas:**

**Patients treated per day**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>More</b>	<b>2%</b>	2%	5%	2%
<b>Fewer</b>	<b>35%</b>	34%	26%	30%
<b>Same</b>	<b>63%</b>	64%	69%	68%

**Time spent with patients**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>More</b>	<b>17%</b>	15%	10%	15%
<b>Less</b>	<b>12%</b>	12%	11%	6%
<b>Same</b>	<b>71%</b>	73%	79%	79%

**Gross charges generated per day**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>More</b>	<b>5%</b>	2%	3%	2%
<b>Fewer</b>	<b>33%</b>	37%	27%	26%
<b>Same</b>	<b>62%</b>	61%	70%	72%

**Trends and Observations**

Part I of Staff Care’s 2008 Review of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends provides insight into how often health care organizations use temporary (*locum tenens*) physicians, why they use these physicians, the benefits locum tenens physicians provide, and the perceived skill levels of locum tenens physicians.

**Who is using locum tenens physicians?**

The Review suggests that the use of locum tenens physicians is common among hospitals, medical groups, and government supported health care facilities. Over three quarters of health facility managers surveyed (77%) indicated that their facilities had used locum tenens physicians to supplement their existing medical staffs sometime during the last 12 months. Similarly, in Staff Care’s 2006 Review based on 2005 data, 79% of health care organizations surveyed indicated that their facilities had used locum tenens physicians sometime in the last 12 months (health organizations were not asked about their use of locum tenens physicians over the prior 12 months in Staff Care’s previous Reviews.)

In addition, 56% of those surveyed indicated that their facilities currently are seeking locum tenens physicians to supplement their existing medical staffs. This number has remained relatively constant over the last several years. In 2005, for example, 53% of health facility managers interviewed indicated that their facilities were actively seeking locum tenens physicians, as did 51% in 2004. These numbers suggest that over one half of healthcare facilities are seeking locum tenens physicians at any one time and that the need for locum tenens physicians has been widespread for at least the last several years.

The majority of organizations surveyed (53%) indicated that in a typical month they use from one to three locum tenens physicians. Nine percent said that in a typical month they use four or more

locum tenens physicians, while 38% said in that in a typical month they do not use locum tenens physicians. These numbers are very similar to those reported for 2005, indicating that the average number of locum tenens physicians used by hospitals, medical groups and other organizations has remained relatively constant over the last several years.

The majority of those surveyed (61%) responded that finding locum tenens physicians is no more or less difficult today than it was 12 months ago. About one-quarter (23%) said that finding locum tenens physicians is more difficult today than it was 12 months ago, while 16% said that finding locum tenens physicians is less difficult today than it was 12 months ago.

### **Reasons for using locum tenens**

Health care organizations use locum tenens physicians for a variety of reasons. The most common reason for using locum tenens referenced in the 2008 Review, cited by 65% of those interviewed, was “to fill in until a permanent doctor is found.” This response reflects an evolution in the locum tenens market that is linked to the national physician shortage. Historically, locum tenens doctors have been used to hold a place for ill, vacationing or otherwise absent doctors pending their return. Today, national doctor shortages have prompted hospitals, medical groups and others to use temporary doctors to maintain services in lieu of permanent doctors, who may be difficult to find.

In addition, the aging of the physician population (over one-third of physicians today are 55 and older) and the increased mobility of doctors can generate relatively high physician turnover rates at hospitals, medical groups and other facilities. According to the 2008 Review, 61% of health care facilities use locum tenens doctors to fill in for physicians who have left the area.

The 2008 Review indicates that locum tenens doctors are still used to provide coverage for permanent physicians who are temporarily absent from their practices. Fifty-percent of managers interviewed said they use locum tenens physicians to fill in for vacationing physicians or for physicians who are pursuing continuing medical education (CME). Sixteen percent said they use locum tenens doctors to help meet rising patient demand for medical services, while 15% indicated they use locum tenens doctors to supplement the medical staff during peak usage times such as flu season. A smaller number of managers (3%) use locum tenens physicians to “test market” new medical services to see if such services are needed or viable in their areas.

The main benefit of using locum tenens physicians, cited by 80% of those surveyed, is to “maintain continual treatment of patients.” However, by seeing patients who might otherwise have gone elsewhere, locum tenens physicians also allow medical facilities to maintain revenue streams. Fifty-three percent of those surveyed said that “preventing revenue loss” was a benefit of using locum tenens physicians. Using locum tenens physicians also can be part of a physician retention strategy. Over one-third of those surveyed (34%) cited “prevents existing staff burn-out” as a benefit of using locum tenens.

### **How are locum tenens physicians perceived?**

Health care facility managers were asked to rate the general skill level of locum tenens physicians. The majority (76%) rated locum tenens physicians’ skills as either “good” or “excellent.” Twenty-two percent rated their skills as “adequate”, while a small number (2%) rated them as “unsatisfactory.”

Health facility managers also were asked to indicate how locum tenens providers are viewed by various parties, including permanent health care providers on their staffs, the organization’s administration, and patients. About two-thirds (67%) said that locum tenens physicians are “accepted” by permanent providers, while 21% said they are “tolerated.” A small number (2%) said they are “not accepted,” while 10% were “unsure.” The majority (68%) said that locum tenens physicians are “accepted” by the administration, and 63% said they are “accepted” by patients.

In comparing locum tenens physicians to permanent physicians on their staffs, the majority of health facility managers agreed that locum tenens physicians treat the same number of patients per day, spend the same amount of time with patients, and generate the same level of gross charges as permanent physicians.

**PART II**

**Survey of Physicians Working On A Locum Tenens Basis**

Number of Providers Surveyed = 797

**Questions Asked and Responses Received**

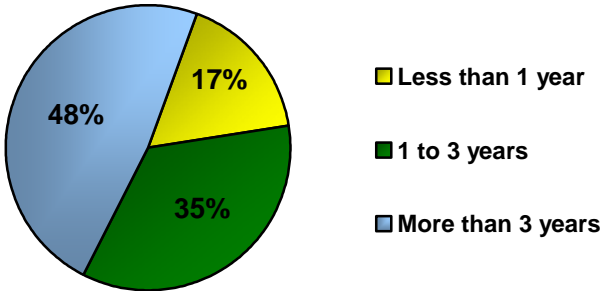
**1. How many years have you been in medical practice?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Less than 1 year	5%	5%	n/a	n/a
1 to 5 years	12%	9%	16%	22%
6 to 10 years	11%	10%	13%	13%
11 to 20 years	17%	22%	22%	26%
21 or more years	55%	54%	43%	26%

**2. How long have you worked as a locum tenens?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Less than 1 year	46%	33%	44%	52%
1 to 3 years	25%	31%	28%	28%
More than 3 years	29%	36%	28%	20%

**3. How long do you intend to work as a locum tenens?**



**4. About how many locum tenens assignments do you work during a year?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
1 to 3	60%	57%	55%
4 to 6	24%	23%	34%
7 to 9	4%	7%	6%
10 or more	12%	13%	5%

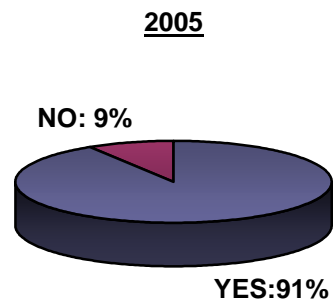
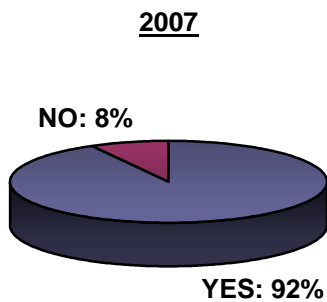
**5. What is your ideal locum tenens assignment length?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Less than 1 month	49%	35%	45%
1 to 4 months	36%	50%	38%
5 to 8 months	7%	11%	9%
9 to 12 months	8%	4%	8%

**6. How long do you intend to work as a locum tenens?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Until I find a permanent position	n/a	18%	18%	28%
Less than 1 year	17%	6%	6%	8%
1 - 3 years	35%	25%	33%	25%
More than 3 years	48%	51%	43%	39%

**7. Have you ever worked in a permanent position?**



8. If yes, how would you rate working as a locum tenens versus working in a permanent position?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
Locum tenens is MORE satisfying	19%	62%
Locum tenens is LESS satisfying	14%	20%
Both types are EQUALLY satisfying	67%	18%

9. Are you currently looking for a permanent position?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Yes	23%	22%	22%
No	77%	78%	78%

10. What are the benefits/drawbacks of working as a locum tenens?

<b>Benefits</b>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<b>Drawbacks</b>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
Freedom/ flexibility	79%	85%	Away from home	61%	63%
No politics	45%	44%	Uncertainty of assignment	52%	47%
Travel	44%	46%	Lack of benefits	33%	44%
Pay rate	42%	38%	Quality of assignment	18%	25%
Professional development	27%	27%	Other	14%	9%
A way to find perm	19%	19%			

11. How many locum tenens agencies do you work with?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
None	14%	6%	9%	5%
1	38%	31%	40%	35%
2-3	42%	50%	44%	54%
4 or more	6%	13%	7%	6%

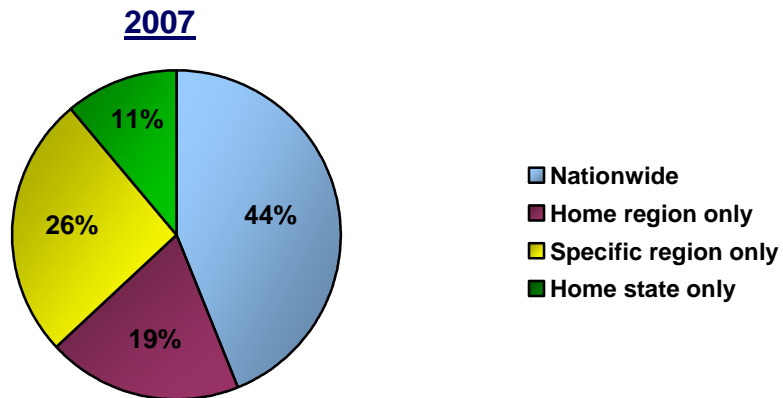
**12. How do you select a firm?**

	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>
Location of opportunities	67%	60%	63%	71%
Customer service	51%	57%	45%	n/a
Pay rate	50%	47%	49%	61%
Reputation/name recognition	34%	42%	28%	31%
Number of opportunities	34%	39%	28%	49%
Malpractice insurance	26%	32%	21%	24%
Advertising/Marketing	n/a	n/a	4%	5%
Other	12%	11%	15%	3%

**13. How do you select temporary opportunities?**

	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>
Location	86%	83%	84%
Pay	58%	55%	55%
Length of opportunity	57%	61%	45%
Type/size of facility	28%	32%	28%
Quality of Equipment	23%	10%	n/a
Patient load	22%	35%	15%
Other	n/a	n/a	10%

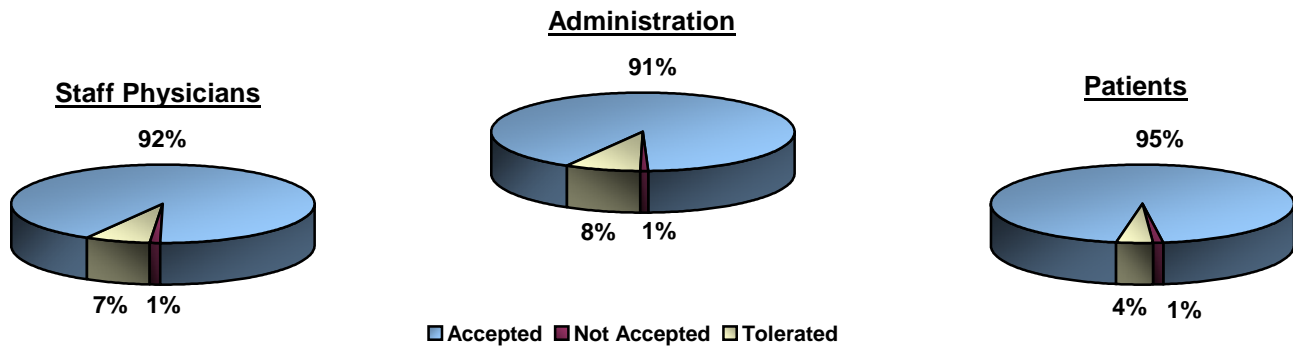
**14. How far are you willing to travel?**



**15. What value do you bring to a hiring facility?**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Maintain patient care	90%	87%	56%
Prevent staff burnout	52%	56%	8%
Generate revenue	46%	52%	15%
Add a specific skill	39%	40%	n/a
Uncertain, N/A	n/a	n/a	14%
Other	n/a	n/a	7%

**16. As a locum tenens provider, how do you feel you are viewed by:**



**Trends and Observations**

**Part II** of Staff Care’s 2008 Review of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends reflects several characteristics of locum tenens physicians and suggests some of the reasons why they work on a temporary basis.

**Who are locum tenens physicians?**

Over half of locum tenens physicians surveyed (55%) have 21 years or more experience as physicians. By contrast, some of those surveyed are relatively new to medicine. Five percent have been in medical practice less than one year, while 12% have been in medical practice from one to five years. Another 28% have between six and 20 years of medical experience, indicating that doctors with a wide range of medical experience choose to practice locum tenens, though the majority are older doctors who have been in medicine for two decades or more.

While many of those surveyed have considerable experience as physicians, almost half are relatively new to locum tenens practice. Forty-six percent have worked as locum tenens for less than one year, while 25% have one to three years of locum tenens experience. Twenty-nine percent of those surveyed may be classified as “veterans” who have three or more years experience working as locum tenens. The relatively high percentage of physicians who have limited

locum tenens experience reflects the fact that the ranks of locum tenens doctors continue to be replenished and expanded by physicians who are newly attracted to the field.

The majority of physicians surveyed (60%) work one to three locum tenens assignments per year. About one quarter (24%) work 4-6 assignments, while 16% work 7 or more assignments. This suggests that some locum tenens physicians are also in permanent practice and “moonlight” on temporary assignments during vacation time or other opportunities. These physicians may only work a limited number of locum tenens assignments each year, while other physicians who are not in permanent practice may work temporary assignments on multiple occasions or even throughout the year. Other physicians, while working only two or three temporary assignments a year, may work on longer assignments that, combined, can take up a significant portion of the calendar year.

Forty-nine percent of physicians surveyed said their ideal temporary assignment length is less than one month, which reflects the fact that many locum tenens physicians have limited windows during which they can work temporary assignments. Thirty-six percent indicated their ideal assignment length was one to three months, while 15% preferred assignment lengths of five months or more, demonstrating that some locum tenens doctors work temporary assignments on virtually a full-time basis.

The survey indicates that many physicians view locum tenens as a long-term career option. About half (48%) indicated they plan to practice on a temporary basis for more than three years. Another 35% plan to work locums for an intermediate length of time (from one to three years) while the minority (17%) said they will practice locums for one year or less. This indicates that some doctors use locum tenens as a short-term option that serves as a transition to another stage in their careers, while others make it a lasting career choice.

Ninety-two percent of physician surveyed have worked in a permanent position, while 8% have worked only locum tenens. Of those who have worked in a permanent position, 67% indicated that permanent medical work and temporary work are “equally satisfying”, while 19% rate locum tenens work as “more satisfying” than permanent and 14% rate permanent positions as “more satisfying” than temporary.

### **Why practice locums?**

When asked why they practice locum tenens, 79% of those surveyed identified “flexible schedule” as a reason, followed by 45% who cited “no politics” and 44% who cited “travel.” By contrast, only 42% cited “pay rate” as a reason for working locum tenens. For most physicians, locum tenens represents a lifestyle choice and not necessarily a chance to enhance their incomes. Locum tenens also represents an opportunity to escape medical politics and the other so-called “hassle factors” of traditional medicine, such as having to pay huge premiums for malpractice insurance, which is typically provided for them by staffing agencies such as Staff Care.

Being away from family and friends was the most frequently cited drawback to locum tenens practice, referenced by 61% of those surveyed, followed by “uncertainty of assignments,” cited by 52%. In some cases, locum tenens physicians are unable to schedule assignments as continuously as they would prefer. “Lack of benefits” was a drawback cited by 33% of those surveyed. This reflects the fact that locum tenens physicians are independent contractors and are not employed by temporary staffing agencies. They may get certain benefits through their permanent employers as they “moonlight” on temporary assignments or they may arrange for their own health insurance and other benefits.

The majority of those surveyed (86%) work with at least one temporary staffing company, while 48% work with at least two. Though they do not employ physicians, temporary physician staffing companies help match them with opportunities and arrange for many of the logistics, such as travel and accommodation, and often assist with licensure and credentialing. Sixty-seven percent of physicians surveyed select staffing firms based on the practice locations they offer, while 51% select firms based on the customer service they provide. Pay rate, name recognition of the firm, and number of opportunities offered also were among the most frequently listed reasons for selecting particular firms.

When asked how they select a temporary opportunity, 86% of physicians surveyed identified “location” as a factor, followed by 58% who identified “pay rate,” and 57% who identified “length of assignment.” As independent contractors, locum tenens physicians are able to select which locations they prefer as well as what level of pay they wish to accept. If a particular staffing firm is not able to match them with a location they prefer, they may choose to work through another firm or contract directly with a hospital or medical group.

### **What value do they bring?**

When asked what value they bring to a medical facility, 90% of locum tenens physicians surveyed identified “maintaining patient care” as a key factor, followed by “preventing staff burnout” (52%). Forty-six percent indicated that they help facilities to generate revenue while 39% indicated they add a clinical skill.

Locum tenens physicians were asked to what degree they are accepted by other physicians, administrators and patients. Locum tenens physicians have been a part of the medical landscape for some 30 years and the survey indicates they have become generally accepted. The great majority of locum tenens physicians interviewed (92%) indicated they are accepted by permanent physicians they work with at their temporary assignments, while 95% said they are accepted by patients, and 91% said they were accepted by administrators.

As the use of locum tenens physicians has become more common, and as privileging requirements and practices have become more stringent, concerns that may have existed about the quality of care provided by locum tenens physicians appear to be fading.

## **PART III**

### **Review of Staff Care’s 2007 Temporary Physician Staffing Assignments**

In the course of a calendar year, Staff Care conducts thousands of temporary physician search assignments for its clients, seeking to match independent contractor physicians in multiple specialties with hospitals, medical groups, government facilities and other organizations requiring the services of *locum tenens* physicians. Staff Care also conducts temporary staffing assignments for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) and for dentists.

Following is a review of the temporary staffing assignments Staff Care conducted in calendar year 2007. The Review reflects current trends in the locum tenens staffing industry, including which types of temporary health care providers are in particular demand.

## Top Temporary Staffing Assignments By “Days Requested”

Staff Care tracks demand for temporary physician staffing services through the number of temporary physician “days requested” by its clients. The table below indicates the percentage of Staff Care’s “days requested” in 2007 by medical specialty.

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Primary Care</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	40.7%
<b>Anesthesia (Anesthesiologists/ CRNAs)</b>	<b>20%</b>	22.4%
<b>Behavioral Health</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	17.2%
<b>Radiology</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	11.6%
<b>Surgery</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	8.1%
<b>Dentistry</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	N/A

### Number of Days Filled, 2007

**In calendar year 2007, Staff Care filled 219,000 days of temporary assignments nationwide with locum tenens providers.**

## Trends and Observations

The breakdown of temporary provider “days requested” above reflects current demand trends in locum tenens. Primary care – including family practice, general internal medicine, and pediatrics – was the specialty area in greatest demand in 2007, with twice the number of days requested of any other specialty area.

The rise in demand for locum tenens primary care physicians is symptomatic of a national shortage of these types of doctors. The shortage is a function of changing demographics, including both significant population growth and population aging, coupled with a stagnant to declining supply of primary care physicians. The Census Bureau projects that 50 million people will be added to the population between 2000 and 2020. This includes new births and many young immigrants who require the services of family physicians and pediatricians. In addition, 75 million baby boomers will begin turning 65 and be eligible for Medicare in 2011. Older patients with multiple chronic conditions typically are treated by general internists. The supply of internists, however, is compromised by the fact that a growing number of internists are choosing to sub-specialize and are not entering primary care practice. A 2004 study by the Association of American Medical Colleges indicated that only 27% of general internists coming out of training planned to stay in primary care, while the remaining 73% planned to specialize. The supply of family physicians is compromised by the fact that fewer U.S. medical school graduates are choosing to train in family medicine than have in the past. In 2007, 16% of family practice residency slots went unfilled, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. Moreover, 52% of medical school graduates who

elected to train in family practice in 2007 were international medical graduates, some of whom will return to their home countries after training.

As a result of these supply and demand trends, many hospitals and medical groups are unable to fill permanent positions for primary care doctors. Often, they use locum tenens physicians to maintain services and revenue until permanent positions can be filled, as is reflected in Part I of this Review.

Similar dynamics are driving other areas of high demand, such as anesthesia. Surgery rates, both elective and non-elective, are rising as options increase and new procedures such as bariatrics gain in popularity. These new procedures, which often are key revenue producers for hospitals and surgery centers, cannot take place without anesthesiology providers. Health facilities will use locum tenens providers to ensure both continuity of services and revenue streams.

Behavioral health is another area in which health care providers are in critically short supply. The Department of Health and Human Services projects that demand for general psychiatrists will increase 19% between 1995 and 2020, while demand for child and adolescent psychiatry will increase by 100% during the same period. Meanwhile, the number of psychiatrists being trained is projected to remain static at best. In many cases, behavioral health facilities, particularly state funded institutions and correctional facilities, already cannot find psychiatrists to fill permanent positions and are dependant on locum tenens providers to maintain services.

Demand for locum tenens radiologists is largely a function of the proliferating uses of diagnostic imaging. From x-ray, to CT, MRI, and ultrasound, diagnostic imaging is a key tool used in multiple settings, including hospitals, diagnostic imaging centers, surgery centers, and physician and dentist offices. In medicine today, very little in the way of diagnosis or surgery takes place without a picture, creating an expanding need for radiologists. Locum tenens radiologists may be used both to fill in while facilities seek permanent physicians or to provide on-site coverage of hospital emergency departments during night and weekend hours.

Though surgery does not generate the same level of demand as other specialty areas, demand for locum tenens surgical specialists continues to rise as hospitals and surgical centers seek to maintain high volume surgical services.

Overall, the number of locum tenens provider “days requested” by Staff Care clients increased by over 20% from 2006 to 2007, reflecting the growing need for temporary medical professionals in a wide range of specialties and settings.

For more information about this survey, please contact:

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