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■ Bay Area Day Trips

■ Becoming a
Physician Advisor at
Your Hospital

■ Is Locum Tenens
Right For You?

Career Guide

ORAL SURGERY

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) Annual Meeting
October 9 - October 14, 2017 - San Francisco, CA

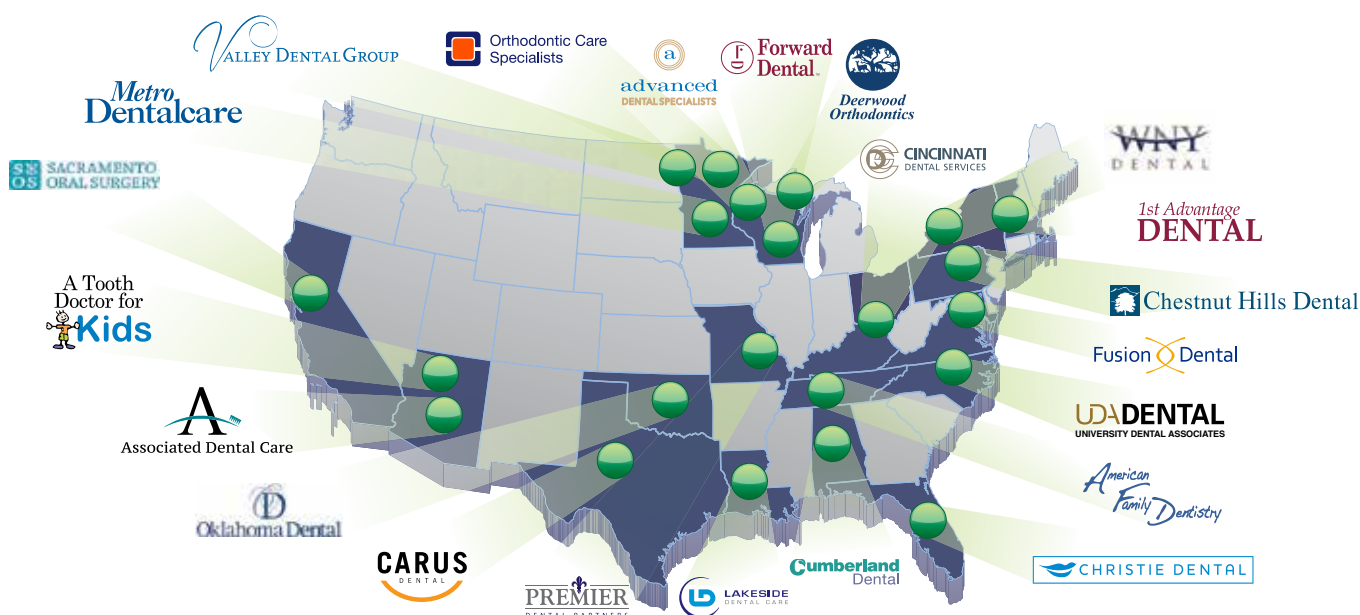


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Read on if you've ever wondered **Is Locum Tenens Right For You?**

Bay Area Day Trips

Explore popular neighborhoods and attractions in San Francisco.

San Francisco: The cultural, commercial and financial center of Northern California that is home to Silicon Valley and to the 49ers Football Team. Founded in 1776, this hilly city is known for more than its iconic Cable Cars and the Golden Gate Bridge. San Francisco is also known for its cool summers, its fog, its eclectic architecture and its landmarks. There is so much history and culture packed into just under 48 square miles. While you're in town for the annual meeting, take some time out of your schedule to visit some of the Bay Area's popular neighborhoods and attractions. Be sure to wear a jacket and comfortable shoes!

Alcatraz Island

The Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary (Alcatraz for short) is located on the island and operated from 1934 to 1963. During its time, Alcatraz held some of America's most ruthless criminals such as Al Capone, George "Machine Gun" Kelly and Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson as well as prisoners who repeatedly caused trouble at other federal prisons. Today, Alcatraz is a public museum operated by the National Park Services and offers ferry passes and tours of the penitentiary.

nationalparks.org/explore-parks/alcatraz-island

Chinatown

San Francisco has the largest Chinatown outside of Asia and is the largest Chinese community in North America. It was established in 1848 and is steeped in the history and culture of ethnic Chinese immigrants in America. Chinatown's restaurants are considered the birthplace of American Chinese Cuisine, introducing such food items as Chop Suey and Dim Sum to Western and American tastes; its Dim Sum tea houses remain

a major tourist attraction. Walking tours are available to take in the history, the art and culture of Chinatown. Enjoy the great restaurants and shopping.

c-c-c.org

Crissy Field

Crissy Field is a place to walk or bike offering breathtaking views of the Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. Formerly a US Army airfield, thanks to restoration by the National Parks Conservancy, the area now has beaches, picnic tables and windsurfing. Warming Hut and Beach Hut Cafés are on site for grabbing a bite to eat.

parksconservancy.org/visit/park-sites/crissy-field.html

Mission District

This gentrified Latin neighborhood is home to the famous Roxie Theater and to five restaurants that have received 2017 Michelin stars. Mission has four sub-districts: The northeast is known as the center for high tech startups and chic bars and restaurants. The northwest is famous for their Victorian mansions and for Dolores Park a popular recreation area. The Valencia corridor and the 24th Street corridor (Calle 24) are popular for their restaurants, bars and galleries.

sftravel.com/explore/neighborhoods/mission-district

Muir Woods National Monument

Hikers and Bikers alike will revel in this redwood forest located 12 miles north of San Francisco. It is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and one of the few redwood forests remaining along the Pacific Coast. Fifty species of birds, 11 species of bats and a myriad of mammals from Sonoma



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chipmunks to black bears have been spotted along throughout the forests. A paved main walking trail begins at the entrance, travels alongside redwood creek and into the old growth forest. Bikers are only permitted on designated roads.

nps.gov/muwo/index.htm

North Beach

North Beach is near Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown, and is San Francisco's Little Italy with a large Italian American population. Part of the old Barbary coast, the neighborhood was formerly home to Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsburg and Joe DiMaggio. Today North Beach is best known for its ristorantes, caffes and old-world delicatessens. Washington Square Park and Beat Museum are also fixtures in this beloved neighborhood.

sftravel.com/explore/neighborhoods/north-beach

Richmond District

Richmond District (not to be confused with the city of Richmond some 20 miles north of San Francisco) is a melting pot of cultures, restaurants and theaters. The city is also called Little Russia represented by East Asian, Indian, Ethiopian, Russian and other world influences. The most famous Restaurant in Richmond District is Sutro's Cliff House, with magnificent views of the Bay and its seafood menu. Land's

End and Eagles Point are also favorite of outdoors enthusiasts. sftravel.com/explore/neighborhoods/richmond-presidio

Sausalito

Before the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito was a rail, car and ferry terminus. It's hard to imagine that this wealthy artistic residential enclave was previously an industrial ship building city during World War II. Sausalito has a fishing pier, public beaches and a thriving houseboat community. The city also boasts unique tours and attractions, boutique shops, outdoor cafes, bistros, art studios and galleries.

ci.sausalito.ca.us/

Sonoma Valley

No trip to San Francisco would be complete without a tour of one of California's world famous vineyards. Sonoma Valley is known as the birthplace of the California wine industry, with hundreds of vineyards ranging from small family-owned holdings to large international wineries. The Sonoma region is also home to wilderness areas like Armstrong Redwoods State Preserve and to beaches surrounding Bodega Bay.

sonomavalley.com ■

Becoming a Physician Advisor at Your Hospital



As hospitals strive to remain profitable and competitive in today's health care environment, the addition of a Physician Advisor (PA) to the administrative staff is viewed as not only good for business but also as good for patients.

Once a role typically filled by physicians who were nearing retirement, the Physician Advisor has evolved into a position that is part compliance expert, part patient care coordinator, and part hospital administrator. The PA's role is to perform in an advisory capacity with:

- Utilization of Hospital Resources (Level of Care and Length of Stay)
- Documentation and Compliance
- Clinical Review of Patients
- Medical Necessity Protocol
- Care/Case Management with Physicians and Staff
- Quality of Care Provided
- Referrals to Alternative Facilities (Physical Therapy, Hospice, etc.)
- Insurance Claims (Appeals of Denials)
- Informing Physicians About Regulatory Changes
- Informing Staff About ICD Code Changes and Interpretation
- Patient Satisfaction
- Physician Peer Review

The [Affordable Care Act](#) outlines specific guidelines for the unique role of a PA as the job is complex and exists to serve both the provider (hospital) and the patient. This pivotal position serves as a


bridge between the hospital's clinical staff and the administrative staff and works to improve communication on all levels. As a result of this increased interaction between physicians, staff, and patients, the patients receive better care.

With the ever-changing compliance environment, a PA must stay informed and current about every aspect of patient care from quality of care to medical necessity guidelines. The PA serves as a liaison to ensure that the patient receives appropriate care and that all medical services rendered are correctly submitted for reimbursement. When necessary, the PA coordinates the appeal process if an insurance claim is denied.

What Knowledge and Expertise Do You Need?

A medical degree and experience in utilization management is the ideal background for a PA. Degrees in Internal Medical, Family Practice, or Emergency Medicine are particularly useful due to the broad background provided by these specialty areas. Naturally, other specialty areas of medicine can also provide the appropriate background to perform well as a PA. Success as a PA is always dependent on the unique combination of training, experience, and temperament of any given individual.

Medical knowledge is integral to the PA's role in peer review activities as well as in the process of appealing health insurance claim denials. Because the PA coordinates and supervises a wide range of activities with the hospital's medical and administrative staff as well as with patients, their families, and health insurance carriers, communication skills are a necessity.



“The Affordable Care Act outlines specific guidelines for the unique role of a PA as the job is complex and exists to serve both the provider (hospital) and the patient.”

Temperament Is Key

Is a PA role right for you? Even if you have a stellar background in medicine and can point to years of success as a physician, a PA position may still not be a good fit for you. The successful PA brings a broad medical knowledge to the job as well as a comprehensive understanding of utilization management and necessity of care protocols, an interest in keeping current with compliance and insurance regulations, and a passion to deliver quality care to patients. But there is still one key ingredient that can't be taught in any medical school or hospital setting – temperament. Do you have the communication skills of a seasoned diplomat to help you navigate the choppy waters when you must make a recommendation or suggestion that is contrary to what a physician has ordered or what the staff is accustomed to providing in a similar case? Always maintaining that delicate balance between advisor and advocate is the mark of a successful and valuable PA.

In addition to the daily interactions with physicians, patients, patients' families, and hospital staff, a PA also has to commit to a heavy load of committee work and meetings on topics such as “Quality of Care,” “Safety,” and “ICD 10 Updates.” Attending (or running) these topic-specific meetings and/or workshops is integral to the successful performance of a PA's duties.

This is an exciting and growing area of medicine – one that has a direct effect on a hospital's bottom line. As a PA, you can not only ensure that your hospital receives every reimbursement dollar that is appropriate from insurance, but you also assist in helping the hospital achieve increased patient satisfaction and better health outcomes for its service area.

To learn more about becoming a PA, contact the [ACPA](#) (American College of Physician Advisors), or [NAPA](#) (National Association of Physician Advisors). ■

Sources:

[ahrq.gov](#); [acpadvisors.org](#); [worldcongress.com/NAPA](#)

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Is Locum Tenens Work Right for You?

Locum Tenens (Latin for “to hold the place of”) is a temporary work assignment for a physician. The reasons for considering locum tenens work can vary as widely as the physicians considering it. Perhaps you’re a new physician and you want to try out several positions to help you decide on a long-term job. Perhaps the idea of committing to a practice or hospital full time doesn’t appeal to your sense of freedom and adventure. Maybe you’re a mom and you want to be able to spend more time at home. Or, you’re a retired (or semi-retired) physician not quite ready to hang up the stethoscope.

The good news is that there is no shortage of locum tenens work for physicians. According to The Association of American Medical Colleges, the advancing age of the American population will create a demand for physicians that will exceed the supply by 91,000 by the year 2020. This deficit will grow to 131,000 by 2025 because the supply of physicians has remained flat over the last 20 years. A 2015 Staff Care Survey of Temporary Physician Staffing Trends reports that 91% of healthcare facilities used locum tenens physicians. Seventy three percent of healthcare facility managers said they use at least one locum tenens physician a month while 18% reported using four or more.

A primary care physician has a per-diem rate of \$600-\$800 daily and can make approximately \$150,000 a year, slightly less than an employed physician. Locum tenens salary is dependent, of course, on how often a physician is working assignments. Most assignments last a couple of weeks, while some can last up to a year. “Some locations have a hard time finding permanent primary care doctors and rely on locum tenens help, which can take some time,” says Sean Ebner, President of Staff Care. Sixty-eight percent of healthcare facility managers typically use locum tenens physicians to fill in until a permanent doctor is found while 67% use them to fill in for staff who have left. Today, more physicians are making locum tenens their full-time employment. Staff Care estimates that fewer than 50% of physicians remain in private practice. Most locum tenens physicians have worked in a permanent practice, but over 7%

have indicated they have only ever worked on a locum tenens basis. Twenty-one percent of physicians begin working locum tenens directly after completing their residencies and that number of younger physicians is increasing. Many physicians have become disenchanted with the “business” of medicine and have opted to become temporary staff on a full-time basis. The top reported benefits to working locum tenens include flexibility (85%), pay rate (53%), and “no politics” (51%).

Janice Boughton, MD left her private practice to become a locum tenens physician and wrote of her experience on the medical social media blog Kevin MD. Having worked in several states including Alaska, she discusses selecting an agency (Staff Care is one of them), the application and screening processes and the ups and downs of locum tenens work. The experience for her was a positive one, but it is not for everyone.

Howard Rodenberg, MD MPH, columnist for the Journal of Emergency Medical Services, wrote about his locum tenens experience on his blog Writing with Scissors. While locum tenens wasn’t for him, he notes it was great for his ego. He discusses the great demand for his experience from numerous agencies vying to place him during his locum tenens stint.

The fact is, all specialties are in high demand for locum tenens work. For those interested in higher pay with work flexibility, locum tenens may become the rule rather than the exception.

Learn More

There are several staffing companies specializing in locum tenens staffing for physicians. The following is a list of companies that can discuss in depth why locum tenens may be right for you and match you up with the most appropriate assignments: [Staff Care](#), [CompHealth](#), [Weatherby](#), [Aerotek](#), [Vista Staffing Solutions](#), [Medical Doctor Associates](#), [Mary Kraft Staffing](#), [Delta Healthcare Providers](#) ■



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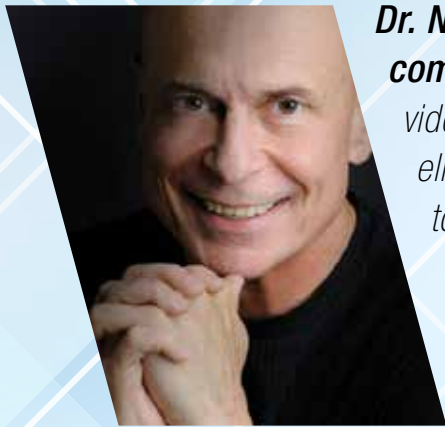
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