Key takeaways from the 2023 State of Locum Tenens Report.

CHG Healthcare’s 2023 State of Locum Tenens Report reveals healthcare is turning to locum tenens providers at historic rates to address staffing challenges.

Locum tenens usage is expected to increase
In a CHG Healthcare survey of healthcare facilities, 64% reported using locum tenens. About half anticipate using locum providers at about the same rate going forward, while a third expect locum tenens utilization to increase. Among facilities surveyed, 35% say they use locum tenens often or very often.

Frequency of locum tenens utilization

Less common reasons include:
- Maternity or paternity coverage
- Maintain flexibility to upsize or downsize
- Test a provider before hiring permanently
- Maintain services while transitioning

Most-utilized locum specialties
The specialties in the highest demand for locums have stayed fairly consistent over the past few years. However, emergency medicine has seen a steady decline as more patients turn to urgent care. Demand for psychiatry and oncology services has grown.

Reasons healthcare facilities hire locums
Healthcare facilities use locum tenens primarily to fill a vacancy, but some use locums as a more flexible staffing solution than hiring additional permanent staff.

Reasons for hiring locum physicians

Source: CHG Healthcare 2021 Client Awareness & Perceptions Survey

1. Primary Care
2. Sub-Specialties
3. Cardiology/Pulmonology
4. Surgical Specialties
5. Oncology
6. Psychiatry
7. Obstetrics/Gynecology

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A positive opinion of locum tenens physicians

A majority of recruiters and hospital leaders (88%) reported a positive or neutral impression of locum tenens physicians used over the past year. Only 12% reported a somewhat negative impression, and no one reported having a very negative impression.

Overall impression of locum tenens physicians hired in last 12 months

- Somewhat negative: 12%
- Neutral: 44%
- Somewhat positive: 35%
- Very positive: 9%

Source: CHG Healthcare 2021 Client Awareness & Perceptions Survey

Benefits and drawbacks of locum tenens physicians

Healthcare administrators say locums are helpful in maintaining staffing levels, generating revenue, and reducing staff burnout.

Benefits to hiring locum tenens physicians

- Allows continual treatment of patients: 69%
- Reduces existing staff burnout: 56%
- Faster availability: 50%
- Prevent revenue loss: 45%
- Try out candidates before extending perm offer: 34%

Source: CHG Healthcare 2021 Client Awareness & Perceptions Survey

Drawbacks to hiring locum tenens physicians

- Higher cost than perm physicians: 82%
- Concern about patient care/job performance: 66%
- They are unfamiliar with department/practice: 65%
- Lack of continuity of patient care: 53%
- They are unfamiliar with equipment/procedures: 53%

Source: CHG Healthcare 2021 Client Awareness & Perceptions Survey

Locum tenens can be profitable

A sound locum tenens strategy allows your facility to see more patients and realize revenue from high-reimbursement specialties.

Run the numbers yourself with CHG’s Locums Revenue Estimator:

[Link](chghealthcare.com/locums-revenue-estimator)

When locums physicians are billed for correctly, they can bring in as much as three times the revenue compared to what they cost. Locum tenens should be seen as a profit center rather than a cost center.

- Melinda Giese, senior vice president, CHG Healthcare

To read the full 2023 State of Locum Tenens Report, visit [link](chghealthcare.com/chg-state-of-locum-tenens-report)

CHG Healthcare can provide your healthcare facility with the locum tenens physicians and advanced practice providers you need to grow your organization. To learn more, contact us by phone at [866.588.5996](tel:8665885996) or email [ecs.contact@chghealthcare.com](mailto:ecs.contact@chghealthcare.com).