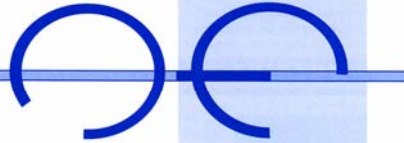




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ShiftWise eases staffing burden

A tool to more easily connect hospitals with staffing agencies was first tested at Tuality Healthcare and Silverton Hospital more than two years ago. That tool, called ShiftWise, now serves 317 hospitals nationwide, filling hundreds of thousands of nursing shifts through a computer program that's easy to navigate.

ShiftWise is to nurse staffing what Expedia or Travelocity are to purchasing airline tickets, said Steve Schwartz, CEO. "Our system enables hospitals to book nurses more efficiently and quickly. It can lower the price of the average cost of a nurse and increase quality." Average revenue at Portland-based ShiftWise has grown 600 percent annually since its inception in 2003.

Steve Krautschid, employment coordinator at Tuality, helped craft the ShiftWise program. "We couldn't be happier

with ShiftWise," said Krautschid. "Having one source to reach available nurses among roughly 40 agencies relieves an enormous headache that previously plagued his department. "It was literally a nightmare."

Besides Tuality and Silverton in Oregon, Salem Hospital also uses the program. Other hospitals use similar programs. Legacy, for example, uses an electronic staffing program called OneStaff.

Supplemental medical shifts account for about \$12 billion annually, and the demand is expected to increase over time. The gap between registered nurse vacancies and the number of those graduating from nursing programs in Oregon grew by 111 nurses in 2005, according to a report by the Oregon Health Care Workforce Institute issued in September.