



Looking for freedom and control over your career?

- Practicing as a locum tenens is a way to start.

Nearly three quarters of physicians now spend time practicing as a locum tenens provider at some career point. Increasingly, graduating residents are turning to this practice option as a way to “try before you buy.” **The percentage of physicians who begin practicing as a locum tenens provider straight out of residency has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade.** There are a number of reasons why residents’ interest in working locum tenens has exploded in recent years.

Working locum tenens allows many physicians to obtain coverage with better professional liability insurance policies than they could get on the open market. For instance, Medical Doctor Associates offers its contract physicians occurrence form professional liability insurance. Occurrence form is the highest quality insurance available because it provides coverage over the life of the physician, regardless of when a claim is reported, and without the need to buy expensive tails, as is necessary with a claims-made insurance policy. In addition to being able to obtain an occurrence form policy, locum tenens physicians aren’t required to pay the premiums- MDA offers this form of coverage to the providers that are placed through us. MDA is the only, national, multi-specialty, locum tenens organization that offers A++ rated occurrence form professional liability insurance.

The almost unilateral introduction of managed care has greatly complicated the physician’s role in medical care. Today’s physicians have to be as adept at paperwork as they are at making

diagnostic recommendations for treatment. Practicing as a locum tenens provider allows physicians to crawl out from under the mountain of paperwork that goes hand-in-hand with traditional practice, and concentrate on patient care.

Ultimately – practicing as a locum tenens provider is a quality of life issue. More and more physicians are beginning to eschew the traditional view of medicine as a lifestyle. Today’s residents don’t want to live at their practices. They want to spend time with their families and be able to take personal time. Locum tenens physicians are independent contractors who have the freedom to choose when, where, and for how long they will work. Physicians in traditional practice have to navigate the minefields of seniority rank and office politics, whereas locum tenens providers can take time off without adverse consequences to their **careers**.

G. Aaron Paul is the Premier Residency Program Coordinator for Medical Doctor Associates, Inc. MDA is the quality leader in healthcare staffing and fills both permanent and locum tenens positions in all 50 states as well as limited international placements. Aaron regularly travels to training programs at hospitals around the country offering free lunch ‘n learn sessions designed to provide residents with useful information about the job search and the business side of medicine.