



U.S. Public Health Service Nursing -TIP OF THE MONTH December 2019



Planning for a Nursing Career after Retirement

Transitioning from a nurse officer in the USPHS Commissioned Corps to a civilian nursing position can seem to be a daunting task. There are many very important decision to be made during the retirement process, and this transition is not easy! We have provided some tips to take into consideration when working to plan for your nursing career after retirement.

- 1. Start planning early!** Don't wait until the last minute to begin planning for your career transition. Attend a USPHS retirement seminar and work to establish a retirement timeline and career plan post retirement in advance. It is recommended that all officers take the seminar as early as their 14th year of active service and no later than their 18th year ([Seminar Information](#)). Planning will help ease the process and help to ensure you have a solid plan in place.
- 2. Explore your civilian nursing career opportunities.** Think about what you would like to do with your post retirement nursing career and what your goals are. Start your job search before you have retired. If you are considering nursing employment after retirement and would like to continue serving in the government sector, visit [USAJOBS](#) for information on opportunities. Local and overseas nursing jobs exist in a wide variety of areas/agencies.
- 3. Engage in networking opportunities.** When working to identify job opportunities upon retirement, discuss your plan and interests with other officers and coworkers. Seek out advice from other officers who have retired from the Commissioned corps. Tap into other informal networks such as friends, family, and other community members when working to identify job opportunities upon retirement. Attend Career Fairs and state and national nursing conventions for [networking](#) opportunities.
- 4. Think about nursing licensure.** When seeking job opportunities, consider location and other licensure requirements. Nursing licensure requirements and regulations typically lie with state governments, and vary by state. The following link can assist in navigation nursing licensure requirements when transitioning to a civilian position: [Nursing Licensure Information](#).
- 5. Know your resources.** There are various resources that are available when transitioning from a Commissioned Corps nurse officer to a civilian nurse role. Identifying and using available resources can help to alleviate stress and ensure a smooth and successful transition of your nursing career following retirement. Key resources: [USPHS NPAC](#), [COA](#).

BONUS TIP

Retiring from the Corps is a Qualifying Life Event and requires action from you to ensure there is no gap in coverage. Typically, within 90 days of your official retirement date, you must enroll in a Tricare plan for retirement. [TRICARE](#)



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Tip of the Month Workgroup