

"Surgeon Shortage Pushes Hospitals to Hire Temps"

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A recent study published in the Archives of Surgery shows a 25 percent drop in general surgeons per capita during the past 25 years. More general surgeons are leaving the field due to tough schedules, lower payments, and the promise of more money in surgical niches. The trend has bolstered demand for temporary surgeons, and many general surgeons are becoming fill-ins as a way to boost income. According to staffing agencies, approximately 1 in 20 general surgeons has embraced temporary work, given that temporary surgeons do not pay overhead expenses and can earn over \$250,000 annually. However, hospitals are being hit hard, as temporary surgeons can cost them \$1,500 per day plus travel and lodging expenses. Additionally, **there are concerns about continuity of care because patients whose procedures are performed by temporary surgeons must see another provider for follow-up care, and temporary surgeons do not know hospital staff** and are unfamiliar with patient histories.