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## Pros and Cons of Becoming a Locum Tenens

November 16, 2017 | posted by [Jessica Lawless](https://www.abstaffing.com/author/jessica-lawless/) (https://www.abstaffing.com/author/jessica-lawless/)

### Why Become a Locum Tenens?

Locum work may be something you've thought idly about but never really pursued. Many physicians are drawn in by the allure of travel, but there are other factors for you to consider:

#### Pros

You can pay down debt — fast

If you're committed to practicing in a particular location, your income can be limited by the area's opportunities, cost of living, and more. By being flexible in the assignments you take, you can maximize your earning potential. Some locales have a tough time recruiting physicians, so wages are commensurately higher. Often, locums assignments include stipends or other arrangements for travel and lodging, letting you put more of your money toward your medical school or other debt and helping you pay it off faster.

## You can leave administrivia behind

You probably didn't become a doctor to spend hours filling out tedious paperwork, but in a traditional practice setting, you might spend a disheartening amount of time doing just that. If patient care — and having a life outside of work — are your passions, a locums job might be the perfect fit. Generally, the organization that hires you handles billing and scheduling concerns, leaving you free to focus on providing excellent care.

## Cons

### Starting over can be tough

Working as a locum can have a lot of bright spots — steering clear of the politics of an organization and not being required to attend staff meetings being chief among them — but starting over, professionally and socially, can be a bit of a drain. If you're someone who dreads new hire orientations, taking a longer-term assignment can help you settle in a bit more while you can still enjoy the perks of being a locum.

### Being away from home isn't always easy

Locums work is sometimes seen as a young doctor's game. As mortgages, marriages, and children enter your life, your responsibilities at home grow, and being away for weeks at a time may seem logistically impossible. If you're willing to be creative, however, you can make it happen. You may be able to negotiate a flexible enough schedule to make it home quite often. And if you're at a point in your career where part-time, well-paying work is what you really need, a locum tenens assignment could be just the ticket.

Becoming a locum tenens isn't for everyone, but with the diversity of opportunities out there, it may be a better option than you think. Check out [our open positions \(https://jobs.abstaffing.com/\)](https://jobs.abstaffing.com/) to see if one of them sparks your interest.

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