



CONQUERING THE CRISIS: OVERCOMING HEALTHCARE'S TOUGHEST TALENT CHALLENGES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that healthcare occupations will grow **18%** by 2026, adding nearly **2.3 million** jobs to the U.S. economy.ⁱ WHO (World Health Organization) estimates we will need a further 18 million healthcare workers by 2030 and additional 9.9 million nurses and midwives to meet **global targets**.ⁱⁱ These projections attest to the need for strategic workforce planning, investment in talent acquisition technology, and focus on the candidate experience.

As the healthcare industry continues to face obstacles when it comes to sourcing, recruiting and retaining top talent, organizations need to adjust the way they acquire talent in order to remain competitive in the tightening healthcare talent landscape. Many healthcare organizations are turning to a Recruitment Process Outsourcing (RPO) partner to help meet these challenges and improve internal recruiting programs, processes and capabilities.

WHY PEOPLESOUT RPO?

PeopleScout's RPO team acts as an extension of a healthcare organization's talent acquisition department to source and hire top talent. PeopleScout provides healthcare organizations more flexibility to address skills shortages and fluctuating hiring demands quickly with full and partial-cycle RPO and Recruiter On-Demand™ solutions. Moreover, RPO partners can enhance an organization's talent acquisition capabilities with cutting-edge technology such as video interviewing and innovative sourcing strategies.

In this ebook, you will learn how PeopleScout's RPO team can help your organization overcome recruiting challenges in healthcare by applying expertise, experience, technology and innovative solutions to your talent acquisition program.

TOP CHALLENGES IN HEALTHCARE TALENT ACQUISITION

1. COVID-19's Lingering Impact
2. Fluctuations in Hiring Volume
3. Talent Shortages
4. Advancements in Talent Technology
5. Evolving Candidate Expectations





COVID-19'S LINGERING IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE RECRUITING

Despite declines in COVID-19 cases worldwide, many hospitals systems may still have workforce shortages due to COVID-19 hospitalizations, according to estimates from George Washington University. The university's Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity recently launched its COVID-19 County Workforce Estimator, which predicts that U.S. counties will experience "significant strains" on their hospital workforces. It attributes the strain to long-standing staffing problems with the added pressure of the pandemic.

Healthcare staffing shortages have been a worry for some time now due to the nation's increasingly aging population, but COVID-19 has only added to the concern. Even before the pandemic, studies predicted physician staffing shortages by upwards of **140,000** by 2030, as well as shortages in home-health aides, nursing assistants, nurse practitioners and medical lab technicians by 2025.

Given the extraordinary demands, along with talent shortages that persisted well before the pandemic, healthcare organizations need more support than ever as they adapt their strategies in this unprecedented environment.

EFFECTS ON THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Recognizing the need to expedite the hiring of frontline clinicians, many states have put forth legislation aimed at reducing hiring barriers and streamlining—at least temporarily—cross-border healthcare recruiting activities.

Despite the massive demand for critical first-responders, nurses, respiratory therapists and doctors, healthcare hiring is down **19.4% year-over-year**. This is likely due to the shutdown of non-essential medical care.

According to physician research studies conducted by Wolters Kluwer, of those U.S. physicians surveyed, **18%** said they are more likely to search for a new job—a direct result of the pandemic—and **8%** said they are more likely to look for a job in a different profession. Additionally, the Peterson Center on Healthcare and the Kaiser Family Foundation reported that by November 2022, job quits in the healthcare industry were 32.5% higher than before the pandemic. ^{iv}



THE CHALLENGE

EMPLOYEE TURNOVER

For years, healthcare has endured high turnover rates, and the trend seems to be accelerating. The 2022 NSI National Health Care Retention & RN Staffing Report that covers over half a million healthcare workers across the United States reported that the industry turnover rate currently stands at an average of 22.7%. In the past five years, the average hospital turned over 105% of its workforce. This puts healthcare as one of the industries with the highest turnover rate. ^v

Excessive turnover is corrosive to employee culture, productivity, and an organization's bottom line. To address high turnover rates, healthcare organizations need to invest more in recruiting and improving recruitment strategy. However, healthcare HR budgets are well below average when compared to other industries, according to Bloomberg BNA HR Department Benchmarks and Analysis, and that gap has widened in recent years. In fact, the total median HR funding for organizations is around 1% of operating costs. ^{vi, vii}

The lack of internal resources, high turnover rate, increased demand for specialized healthcare positions, global expansion and mergers all drive the need for scalable, cost-effective recruiting services.

If a healthcare organization is experiencing growth, whether sudden or planned, this change may be too significant to manage with its internal recruiting teams alone. Healthcare organizations that find themselves in this situation need a talent acquisition solution designed to adjust to their dynamic hiring needs.

HEALTHCARE TURNOVER IN THE U.S.

QUICK FACTS

- According to a study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, RN replacement at 13 different hospital groups **cost on average \$36,567.** ^{xx}
- The American Medical Group Association survey found that turnover can **cost as much as \$1 million per physician.** ^x
- According to Modern Health, approximately **83% of hospitals use contingent labor** to fill vacant positions. ^{xii}

THE SOLUTION

AGILE AND SCALABLE HIRING MODELS

As the climate surrounding healthcare organizations has changed, so has the climate for job seekers, which can affect an internal recruiting team's ability to hire qualified candidates. Internal recruiters might find themselves steadily navigating a set number of job openings, and then suddenly, without warning, an influx of requests from new locations or expanding departments flood their system. RPO partners help organizations deal with these changes in a cost-effective manner.

If a client is experiencing a high-volume hiring period, an RPO partner can deploy more recruiters to keep up with demand. Conversely, if a client is experiencing a low-volume hiring period, an RPO provider can rescale its team to match the client's recruiting needs. When needed, RPO providers can also deploy onsite project teams to fulfill a client's hiring needs.

The flexible and scalable nature of RPO services is an effective recruitment solution for healthcare organizations, especially as they benefit from the economies of scale and expertise in managing fluctuating hiring needs that an RPO offers. An RPO's agile delivery model increases process efficiency, improves quality of hire and positively impacts turnover and retention rates.



CLIENT CASE STUDY

SCALABLE SOLUTIONS FOR NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

SCOPE & SCALE:



A national healthcare provider required a scalable talent acquisition solution to recruit for positions at multiple facilities – both clinical and non-clinical roles.

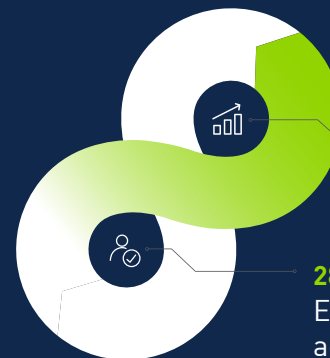


Initially, PeopleScout was engaged to partner with one client division to handle recruitment overflow, supplying three recruiters. However, as the client's needs grew, the team of three increased to 25 recruiters covering 10 divisions and hiring 3,000 candidates annually.



PeopleScout provided the client with superior program scalability and implemented a flexible, customized recruiting model to fulfill new hiring goals as well as to support position backfills with quality candidates for multiple in-scope positions including registered nurses and allied and ancillary non-clinical staff across different specialties.

RESULTS:



96% FILL RATE

Achieved fill rate of **96%** across all positions and divisions.

285 HIRES PER MONTH

Exceeded offer acceptance goals of more than five per week, averaging **285 hires** per month.



THE CHALLENGE

THE HEALTHCARE TALENT SHORTAGE

Higher demand for medical services, an aging workforce and high employee attrition are all converging to create a significant healthcare talent shortage. According to SHRM, **46%** of HR professionals reported it was “very difficult” to fill full-time roles for high-skilled medical positions such as nurses, doctors and specialists. An additional **35%** reported that hiring for those roles was “somewhat difficult.”^{viii}

Clinical roles are not the only positions experiencing a talent shortage; allied and non-clinical roles are also affected. An increase in long-term patients, hospital visits and routine doctor appointments is creating the need for more vital non-clinical and allied staff, such as nursing assistants, lab technicians, billing and coding professionals, janitorial and food service workers.^{ix}

The effects of the healthcare talent shortage are already starting to affect patient care and the communities served by healthcare providers.

“As we see these shortages becoming more acute, it will affect not only the healthcare system, but it affects the health of a city or of a community.”

Dr. Janis Orlowski,
Chief Healthcare Officer
Association of American Medical
Colleges (AAMC)

HEALTHCARE TALENT SHORTAGE AT A GLANCE

61,700 - 94,700 PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

By 2025, the U.S. could face a physician shortage ranging between **61,700 and 94,700**, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.^{xiv}

20 - 30% CODER SHORTAGE

CNBC reports that the medical coding occupation has been plagued for years by a **20 to 30%** shortage of coders.^{xv}

10% CLEANING STAFF PROJECTED GROWTH

Janitorial and cleaning staffing needs are projected to grow **10%** from 2016 to 2026. Many new jobs will be in facilities related to healthcare, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

13% EXPECTED GROWTH CLINICAL & IT

Clinical laboratory technologist and medical records and healthcare information technician jobs are expected to grow by **13%** in the next decade according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CANDIDATE SHORTAGES

CareerBuilder reports there are significant candidate shortages in both phlebotomist and nursing home aide positions.^{xvi}

THE SOLUTION

INNOVATIVE SOURCING STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES

The ability to source quality candidates is vital to winning the battle for healthcare talent. Partnering with an RPO provider can help healthcare organizations develop strategic and innovative approaches to finding the right candidates for unfilled positions.

RPO providers have experience creating diverse healthcare candidate pipelines and implementing tailored sourcing methodologies to ensure healthcare organizations have access to the best talent. Due to handling talent programs across a variety of clients and industries, RPO providers have visibility to the recruitment marketplace that you can't achieve with an internal team.

Additionally, an RPO provider can help deploy technology such as artificial intelligence sourcing tools to help discover top talent faster and more efficiently. Engaging an AI sourcing solution that uses predictive analytics modeling can also provide recruiters with information about how well the candidate matches the job opening and how likely the candidate is to leave their current role. With this information, recruiters can work more quickly and efficiently, filling the role with the best talent in less time. In the end, these tools save time and money.

BENEFITS OF AI-ENABLED CANDIDATE SOURCING



AI-enabled sourcing tools can discover patterns in resumes, social profiles and other sources of data to find candidates that are ideal matches for a job's requirements.



AI algorithms crawl potential candidates' online profiles to help source passive candidates.



AI technology can help reduce bias in candidate sourcing by disregarding candidate demographics (e.g., race, gender, age) in its decision making.



AI can be used to source both external and internal candidates by screening the existing resumes in a healthcare organization's applicant tracking system (ATS) to find strong matches for current open positions.





THE CHALLENGE

ADVANCEMENTS IN TALENT TECHNOLOGY

Workforce recruitment has changed rapidly in the last decade. Job advertisements and applications are now online. Social media and smartphones are used to search for and apply to open positions. As a result, many organizations are struggling to adapt to the advancements in talent acquisition, recruiting technology and the digital acquisition strategies associated with it.

The advantages of talent acquisition technology are abundant, and provide an ample amount of information and insights to analyze the talent markets and create unique sourcing strategies. Talent acquisition technology leverages:

- Artificial intelligence
- Machine learning
- Predictive analytics
- Social media
- Video interviews
- Digital assessments

Recruitment technology can also help promote your employer brand through consistent and successful candidate engagement throughout the hiring process with chatbots and automated emails. When properly executed, talent technology strikes the right balance between AI and human interaction to create a successful outcome for your talent program.

THE CURRENT STATE OF TECHNOLOGY IN RECRUITING

82%

82% of candidates report that the ideal recruiter interaction is a mix between innovative tech and personal, human interaction.

90%

90% of candidates expect the process to be fast. Online applications with 45 or more questions have an abandonment rate of nearly **90%**.

\$14 billion

The HR technology marketplace is valued at more than **\$14 billion**.

90%+

Over 90% of candidates say they've used a mobile device in their job search. ^{xviii}

THE SOLUTION

INTEGRATED, AUTOMATED AND AI-BASED TALENT TECHNOLOGY

RPO partners can effectively harness the power of emerging talent technology by integrating several HR tools into a talent program. Utilizing AI and machine learning, RPO providers can give healthcare organizations a broader view of the entire recruiting process, from sourcing and screening candidates to interviewing and onboarding new hires

This is a considerable advantage for healthcare organizations that are competing for a limited pool of candidates. RPO partners also leverage automation tools to optimize recruiting functions. This can include scheduling tools to save time by avoiding the back-and-forth of manual scheduling, video interviewing to increase the speed of hire and chatbot technology to communicate with candidates at scale.

The real value in talent technology is its ability to improve the candidate experience for both parties by giving candidates what they want. For employers, it's about increasing speed-to-hire and improving employer branding. For candidates, it's about ease of application, responsiveness and communication throughout the hiring process.

MEET AFFINIX™, PEOPLESCOUT'S TALENT TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM



Affinix is a mobile-first, cloud-based platform that creates a consumer-like candidate experience and streamlines the sourcing process. Affinix delivers speed and scalability while leveraging artificial intelligence, recruitment marketing, machine learning, predictive analytics and other emerging technologies with one-point ATS and VMS integration and single sign-on.

AFFINIX FEATURES:



Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies extend across the platform, streamlining the sourcing and screening process and identifying the top talent quickly.



Predictive analytics and machine learning enable PeopleScout to understand top talent behaviors and predict factors such as cultural fit, willingness to change companies and future tenure potential.



PeopleScout's virtual interview management solution is designed to complement your existing hiring process and be part of the implementation process. You will be assigned a dedicated recruiting manager who will activate our virtual interview technology and process your open roles.



THE CHALLENGE

EVOLVING CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS

Candidates have journeys like patients. They form an impression of a potential employer the very first time they find a job posting or hear about an opportunity from a recruiter. Building a successful candidate experience starts before candidates apply for a position; designing an optimal candidate experience requires addressing what candidates want.

A positive candidate experience and strong employer branding are primary factors behind why candidates choose one healthcare organization over a competitor.

THE SOLUTION

CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE OPTIMIZATION

An RPO provider will review a healthcare organization's current recruiting program to learn how it attracts, engages and communicates with candidates. The RPO will then suggest ways to optimize areas of the program to provide candidates with an improved experience throughout the hiring process.

An optimized candidate experience that delivers a more personalized application experience includes, but is not limited to:

- Mobile recruiting
- Social media recruiting
- Developing talent communities
- Personalized job descriptions
- Customized career sites

Video interviews and digital pre-employment assessments are also rising in popularity. Video interviews and digital assessments improve the candidate experience by allowing candidates to complete them at home, or wherever the candidate prefers. By automating interviewing and candidate assessments, the screening process for both candidates and hiring managers is streamlined and simplified.

The most important aspect of a positive candidate experience is ensuring the right balance of human interaction during each step of the journey.

WHAT DO CANDIDATES WANT?

72% SHARE FEEDBACK

Candidates expect to share their experiences with their peers. **72%** of candidates share feedback about their application experiences in-person and on digital platforms like Indeed, Monster, CareerBuilder and Glassdoor.

87% EXPECT PERSONALIZATION

Candidates expect personalization in the application process. **87%** of candidates said personally relevant content improves how they feel about a brand.

78% EXPECT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Candidates expect positive experiences when engaging a potential employer. **78%** of candidates say the overall candidate experience they receive is an indicator of how a company values its people. ^{xvii}



PEOPLESCOUT HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

PeopleScout's healthcare solutions bring the strategy, talent intelligence experience and technology to create best-in-class talent acquisition and total workforce management solutions that begin with the candidate and end with the patient.

The PeopleScout healthcare solutions team adheres to the same strict healthcare industry regulations and compliance standards as our clients, designing tailored programs that reduce cost, meet strict SLAs and slow attrition. The team has a breadth of expertise across an extensive portfolio of clients including national healthcare organizations and pharmacy chains, as well as healthcare revenue and payment cycle management organizations.

PEOPLESCOUT SOLUTIONS INCLUDE

- Fully dedicated support teams with the ability to scale up and down as your hiring needs change.
- Diversified recruitment reach and direct sourcing strategies improve access to hard-to-reach talent and passive candidates.
- Innovative technologies enhance the candidate experience and optimize the recruitment process.
- Improved visibility enables cost controls and improves compliance quality.
- In-depth, multi-tiered implementation process provides seamless transition.



IMPROVING CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE WITH TECHNOLOGY

PROVIDE A MOBILE-FRIENDLY CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE

Our research report, [Inside the Candidate Experience](#), found that over **90%** of candidates have used a mobile device in their job search. This means that organizations should look to create a mobile-friendly recruiting environment for job seekers. ^{xix}

QUICK APPLY

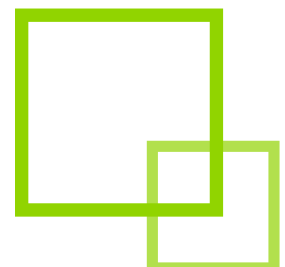
Affinix CRM features a mobile-enabled Quick Apply process that expedites candidates using text, digital and video interviewing; reducing time-to-apply, time-to-offer and time-to-accept while yielding improved fill rates, lower early-stage turnover and overall cost savings.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Establishing timely and clear communication between candidates and recruiters is essential for developing a positive candidate experience. The right technology platform can help by sending automated messages to candidates via email or chatbot technology to inform them of their application status, answer basic questions or facilitate scheduling.

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ABOUT PEOPLESOUT

PeopleScout, a TrueBlue company, is the world's largest RPO provider managing talent solutions that span the global economy, with end-to-end MSP and talent advisory capabilities supporting total workforce needs. PeopleScout boasts 96% client retention managing the most complex programs in the industry. The company's thousands of forward-looking talent professionals provide clients with the edge in the people business by consistently delivering now while anticipating what's next. Affinix™, PeopleScout's proprietary talent acquisition platform, empowers faster engagement with the best talent through an AI-driven, consumer-like candidate experience with one-point ATS and VMS integration and single sign-on. Leveraging the power of data gleaned from engaging millions of candidates and contingent associates every year, PeopleScout enhances talent intelligence for clients across more than 70 countries with headquarters in Chicago, London and Sydney and global delivery centers in Toronto, Montreal, Bristol, Krakow, Gurgaon and Bangalore.

For more information, please visit www.peoplescout.com.

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