

## Client Announcement

This announcement is from the GlobalCare Executive team who wanted to pass on some comments and thoughts on recent events that may have been of concern to you.

### Announcements from Immigration Attorneys

There has been a rash of announcements in recent weeks, from Immigration Attorneys indicating that there will be further delays in the immigration process for nurses that will result in an additional delay of two to three years.

Most of these announcements refer to an extended wait for 'work authorization'

Please be aware that there are many different ways of obtaining visas for RN's and the processes referred to in these announcements are not those used by GlobalCare, and thus we are not affected by these particular changes in procedure.

### Visa Retrogression

You may have heard this term mentioned in recent weeks, so we thought a few words of explanation about it's affect on your nurses and our candidates would be in order.

Visa Retrogression is basically an immigration quota that was introduced some time ago by an Act of Congress. The quota is administered by the Department of State, not the Department of Homeland Security.

The quota was suspended a few years ago, because of backlogs in processing. Now that new systems have been introduced, the quota has been re-established.

The Department of State has forecasted that three countries will reach their quota limits in January 2005, without being specific about how and to what extent that will affect the processing of visas. They plan to release this information in December 2004

There are basically two types of quotas – Family based, and Employment based. Your nurses and our candidates fall into the Employment based category. Outlined below are the Employment based quotas for the Philippines.

<i>Employment Category</i>	<i>Employment Category Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Number of Visas</i>	
Priority workers	1st	28.6%	2,803	} 8,408
Advanced Degrees and Exceptional Ability	2nd	28.6%	2,803	
<b>Skilled Workers</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>2,803</b>	
Special Immigrants	4th	7.1%	696	
Employment Creation	5th	7.1%	696	
			<b>9,800</b>	

Your nurses and our candidates fall into the Skilled Workers employment category. Please note :

- The visa rules allow unused quota in categories one and two to be used for category three. This is particularly important to the Philippines since there are very few people in the Philippines who qualify in the first and second categories. (unlike say a country like India)
- Quotas are not population dependent – so the quota for the Philippines is the same size as the quota for India although India has a population ten times as big
- GlobalCare processes around 300-400 applications each year and we are by far the biggest processor of RN applications in the Philippines.
- The December bulletin from the Department of State indicates that all categories are current for the month of December i.e. there are no quotas to be applied.
- This does not affect people contemplating hiring tours. The filing of visa applications through USCIS (part of the Department of Homeland Security) continues without any impact. The quota effect occurs when the visa has been approved, and is issued by the embassy in Manila.
- USCIS processing times are beginning to improve as their systems come into operation, so delays caused by quotas may be offset by gains in USCIS processing times.
- We are currently investigating the current number of visa applications in this categories through our contacts in Manila and should be able to provide more substantial statistical data in December. Our feeling is however that the impact will be marginal for all the reasons outlined above.

In the unlikely event, that this quota issue becomes significant, your GlobalCare Executive team, has contingency plans in place that would allow us to overcome any potential delays. Many of you have already seen how our team can provide alternatives, when delays were imposed by extensive delays in the processing by USCIS