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# Area nurses face a tight job market

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

Despite continuing reports in some parts of the country of RN shortages, the numbers in the Bay Area are heading in the opposite direction.

That's certainly the view from San Francisco's **Health Workforce Solutions**, which tracks employer job postings. Its Spring 2009 Bay Area RN Labor Market Pulse report says its vacancy-tracking index for RN jobs locally for the six weeks ending April 14 was just 2.1 percent, down from 2.5 percent in January and 3.2 percent last October. Even more disheartening, for recent nursing graduates and others seeking RN jobs in the Bay Area, "recruitment activity" by local hospitals plummeted 22 percent in January, "and has continued to fall since," according to HWS.

"The big takeaway is that the nursing labor market is difficult, for new grads and experienced nurses," Managing Partner David Cherner told the Business Times, and nearly all Bay Area employers are hiring fewer nurses than nine months ago.

Some hospitals are at capacity or close to it, says HWS, including the VA in Palo Alto (0.1 percent vacancy index for RNs), **Sequoia Hospital** in Redwood City (0.3 percent), **Kaiser**

**Permanente's Redwood City Medical Center** (0.4 percent), **UCSF Medical Center** (0.6 percent), and Kaiser Walnut Creek (0.6 percent). But other facilities, including Kaiser Vallejo (10.9 percent), Kaiser Oakland (6.3 percent), **Seton Medical Center** (6.3 percent), **Alameda County Medical Center** (5.8 percent) and Kaiser Santa Clara (4.2 percent) have had a harder time attracting applicants.

The bottom line, said Cherner, many new grads, including those from brand-name institutions like UCSF, "can't find jobs right now" in the region.

### **Hither & Yon: UCSF uses \$2 million gift to launch new initiative**

UCSF and the **Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation** have started an effort to translate basic science into new drug candidates to treat multiple myeloma, an incurable bone-marrow cancer. The Stephen and Nancy Grand Multiple Myeloma Translational Initiative, headed by Jeffrey Wolf, M.D., was launched with a \$2 million gift from the Grand family of San Francisco.