Question of the Week

January 6, 2014

Q: Is it true that LTC facilities need to have the OBRA screens completed prior to a new admission? The agencies and individuals who do the OBRA screens state that they have 10 days after admission to complete the screening.

A: Except as noted below regarding the limited allowance of post-screening, all OBRA screens are to be completed PRIOR to a resident’s admission to a LTC facility. A LTC facility that admits a resident without the screen risks non-payment for any days prior to the completion of the OBRA screens. The Illinois Department on Aging and Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitative Services contract with community-based agencies for the conduction of the OBRA screens.

Post-screening may occur for the following reasons:

1. Pre-existing condition of need for a caregiver and the caregiver is no longer able to provide care; or
2. Admission from out-of-state; or
3. Admission from a Hospital Emergency/Outpatient Services.

All Post-screens must be completed within 10 calendar days from the date of notification by the facility of the need for the screen.