April 28, 2014

Q: What exactly is the requirement for employee name badges? If the employee is licensed (RN, LPN, PT, etc.), do they have to have their license number on their badge? What about volunteers and students, do they need a badge?

A: The Medical Patient Rights Act (410 ILCS 50/6) states that “A health care facility that provides treatment or care to a patient in this State shall require each employee of or volunteer for the facility, including a student, who examines or treats a patient or resident of the facility to wear an identification badge that readily discloses the first name, licensure status, if any, and staff position of the person examining or treating the patient or resident.” Thus, all employees (including volunteers and students) must have an identification badge. The statutory language above has been interpreted to mean that an employee’s specific license number is not required, just their licensed/certified title, RN, LPN, CNA, DON, etc. Other non-licensed/non-certified staff need to be identified by their first name and staff position – laundry, maintenance, housekeeper, etc.