Question of the Week

August 11, 2014

Q: Section 300.1230(k) of the Skilled and Intermediate Care Facilities Code and Section 3-202.5€ of the nursing Home Care Act states, “Effective September 12, 2012, a minimum of 25% of nursing and personal care time shall be provided by licensed nurses, with at least 10% of nursing and personal care time provided by registered nurses. Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses employed by a facility in excess of these requirements may be used to satisfy the remaining 75% of the nursing and personal care time requirements.” Based on this requirement, a common question/area of confusion is, with regard to the 10 percent RN coverage, is it calculated off of the total direct care staff hours or off the 25 percent requirement for licensed nursing hours?

A: For the 10 percent RN coverage requirement, it is calculated off the total direct care (nursing and personal care time) staffing hours, not off the 25 percent licensed nursing hours.