September 1, 2014

Q: What exactly is a “student intern” and what are their limitations for use within a LTC facility?

A: The Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code defines a student intern as any person whose total term of employment in any facility during any 12-month period is equal to or less than 90 continuous days, and whose term of employment is either:

- an academic credit requirement in a high school or undergraduate institution; or

- immediately succeeds a full quarter, semester or trimester of academic enrollment in either a high school or undergraduate institution, provided that such person is registered for another full quarter, semester or trimester of academic enrollment in either a high school or undergraduate institution which quarter, semester or trimester will commence immediately following the term of employment.

The requirements go on to state that the student intern is:

- not required to complete a current course of training for nursing assistants;

- may be utilized to perform basic nursing assistant skills for which they have been evaluated and deemed competent by an approve evaluator using the state approved manual skills competency evaluation testing format and forms (however, the student intern cannot provide rehabilitation nursing, in-bed bathing, assistance with skin care, foot care or administer enemas, except under the direct, immediate supervision of a licensed nurse); and

the facility cannot have more than 15 percent of its nursing assistant staff positions held by student interns.