October 13, 2014

Q: If a LTC facility has high school volunteers coming in weekly during the school year, and the various students in the program rotate week to week as to who comes into the facility, do the high school students need to have a health care worker background check and comply with the volunteer requirements in the Code?

A: According to the Health Care Worker Background Check Code (77 Ill Adm. Code 955), rule 955.165a), "Educational entities, other than secondary schools, and health care employers are required to check the Health Care Worker Registry before allowing a student to enter a training program or hiring an employee to determine: ..." High schools are defined as a secondary school, so background checks are not required. However, according to the Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code (77 Ill Adm. Code 300), rule 300.1440, which requires that the requirements under this section must be followed, volunteers must complete a standard orientation program since the described program is not an occasional visit as defined in this rule.