December 8, 2014

Q: If a facility staff person notices a resident beginning to fall and helps catch them and lower them to the ground, is that considered a fall?

A: Yes, that is considered a fall. Under F323, in the definition section, an “Accident” is defined as “any unexpected or unintentional incident, which may result in injury or illness to a resident. This does not include adverse outcomes that are a direct consequence of treatment or care that is provided in accordance with current standards or practice.” In the same section, a “fall” is defined as “unintentionally coming to rest on the ground, floor or other lower level but not as a result of an overwhelming external force (e.g. resident pushes another resident). An episode where a resident lost his/her balance and would have fallen, if not for staff intervention, is considered a fall. A fall without injury is still a fall. Unless there is evidence suggesting otherwise, when a resident is found on the floor, a fall is considered to have occurred.” All facility staff should be trained on the correct language noted above for falls, accidents and incidents.