December 15, 2014

Q: Are LTC facilities required to track employee illnesses and infections as part of their infection control program?

A: Federal regulation 483.65(b)(2) states “The facility must prohibit employees with a communicable disease or infected skin lesions from direct contact with residents or their food, if direct contact will transmit the disease”. There is no specific federal requirement that the facility include employee illnesses as part of the facility infection control program. It is left up to the facility to decide how to best track employee illnesses and make sure residents aren’t exposed to employee illnesses/infections.