July 13, 2015

Q: Can a surveyor cite a deficiency solely based on staffing ratios or does there need to be a related care deficiency?

A: Section 300.1230 details specific staffing ratios of nursing and personal care each day. The rule also calls for a minimum of 25 percent of nursing and personal care time be provided by licensed nurses, with at least 10 percent of nursing and personal care time provided by registered nurses. In discussing this question with IDPH, key OHCR management staff stated that a facility not meeting this ratio criteria can be cited even if there are no care related issues.