November 7, 2016

Q: What does the Illinois Department of Public Health require with respect to transfers and discharges and the final location of the transfer/discharge if the final location has not yet been identified?

A: IDPH contacted federal CMS and they stated, “42 CFR §483.12(a)(2) indicates circumstances under which a facility may involuntarily transfer/discharge a resident. While the §483.12(a)(6) requirements for contents of the notice must be met for involuntary discharges, if a specific location is not identified when the notice is provided but the facility is diligently working on providing options for the location to which the resident will be transferred/discharged, documentation of the information available would be reasonable. However, whenever possible, the specific location should be provided. More information documented in the clinical record may assist the surveyors in determining whether requirements are met.”