April 3, 2017

Q: IHCA has received several inquiries with regard to medical assistants (MA) wanting to become or function as a certified nurse aide (CNA). Is this possible?

A: Medical assistants (MA) cannot function as a CNA in Illinois without going through a CNA program including both classroom and clinical, as well as taking the skills test and the exam. While it is true, that MAs may have had as much as or even more training than a CNA, the course work and skills may not be equivalent to what a CNA receives in a CNA program/course. Current Illinois Law does not allow for a CNA equivalency regarding MAs.