April 10, 2017

Q: We have seen an uptick in surveyor focus on bed/side rail safety? Did the ROPs address this? What are the requirements?

A: Section 483.25(n) of the Section on Quality of Care, was revised with respect to bed rails. It states:

(n)Bed rails. The facility must attempt to use appropriate alternatives prior to installing a side or bed rail. If a bed or side rail is used, the facility must ensure correct installation, use, and maintenance of bed rails, including but not limited to the following elements.

(1) Assess the resident for risk of entrapment from bed rails prior to installation.
(2) Review the risks and benefits of bed rails with the resident or resident representative and obtain informed consent prior to installation.
(3) Ensure that the bed's dimensions are appropriate for the resident's size and weight.
(4) Follow the manufacturers' recommendations and specifications for installing and maintaining bed rails.