April 9, 2018

Q: Can we put signs at the head of a resident’s bed if they have impaired vision or hearing so staff will know?

A: Per federal requirements at §483.10(h) - “The resident has a right to personal privacy and confidentiality of his or her personal and medical records.” Posting signs in residents’ rooms or in areas visible to others that include clinical or personal information could be considered a violation of a resident’s privacy. It is allowable to post signs with this type of information in more private locations not visible to the public. An exception can be made in an individual case if a resident or his or her representative requests the posting of information at the bedside (such as instructions to not take blood pressure in right arm). This does not prohibit the display of resident names on their doors nor does it prohibit display of resident memorabilia and/or biographical information in or outside their rooms with their consent or the consent of his or her representative. (This does not include isolation precaution information for public health protection, as long as the sign does not reveal the type of infection).