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§484.105(b)(2) When the administrator is not available, a qualified, pre-designated person, who is authorized in writing by the administrator and the governing body, assumes the same responsibilities and obligations as the administrator. The pre-designated person may be the clinical manager as described in paragraph (c) of this section.

Interpretive Guidelines §484.105(b)(2)

“Pre-designation” means that the individual who is responsible for fulfilling the role of the administrator in his/her absence is established in advance and approved by the governing body.

Pre-designation needs to be by both the administrator and the governing body. The goal of this requirement is to provide management continuity within the HHA to the greatest degree possible. HHA staff should know and be able to verbalize upon interview who the pre-designated individual(s) is/are for this role (82 FR 4549).