ARIZONA

Alzheimer’s Disease Subcommittee of Aging Advisory Council

Arizona law creates an Aging Advisory Council with an Alzheimer’s disease subcommittee. The subcommittee is charged with collecting data and preparing new or revised recommendations regarding Alzheimer’s Disease to the governor, senate, and house of representatives on a yearly basis. This committee may be a mechanism to introduce improvements to Alzheimer’s disease training standards.

Certified Nursing Assistants

Arizona certified nursing assistant regulations was amended effective September 2014. It requires certified nursing assistants to complete a nursing assistant training program of at least 120 hours of instruction, which can be met several different ways including combinations of both classroom instruction and clinical instruction. The nursing assistant training program must provide a curriculum plan with overall course goals and measurable learner-centered objectives. The program must provide classroom and clinical instruction in an array of subjects, including the care of cognitively impaired patients or residents. That component of the program must contain training that addresses the unique needs and behaviors of patients or residents with dementia or other cognitive impairment, communicating with cognitively impaired patients or residents, reducing the effects of cognitive impairment, and appropriate responses to the behavior of cognitively impaired individuals.

Direct Care Workers in Assisted Living Facilities

Arizona has comprehensive regulations governing training requirements for assisted living managers and staff. An assisted living facility manager training programs must consist of at least 40 hours of classroom instruction, and must include instruction regarding developing systems for managing residents with dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, or difficult behaviors. The regulation for assisted living facility caregiver training programs requires that owners of these programs ensure that training programs consist of at least 104 hours of instruction, including eight classroom hours in the care of cognitively impaired residents. Topics include anticipating and
addressing the needs and behaviors of residents with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, communicating with cognitively impaired residents, understanding the behavior of cognitively impaired residents, and reducing the effects of cognitive impairment. See also Ariz. Admin. Code § R4-33-702 which requires a student to attain at least 75 percent on each theoretical examination or 75 percent on a comprehensive theoretical examination.

Medicaid Waiver

A Medicaid waiver covers services in assisted living.