Arkansas regulation sets forth the requirements for staff training in Alzheimer’s Special Care Unit in nursing homes. The requirements include 30 hours of training in specific areas including: etiology; philosophy and treatment of dementia; the stages of Alzheimer's disease; behavior management; use of physical restraints; wandering and egress control; medication management; communication skills; prevention of staff burnout; activity programming; ADLs and Individual-Centered Care; and assessments and creation of ISPs. In addition, two (2) hours of in-service are required every quarter.

Nursing Aide Training in Long-Term Care Facilities

An Arkansas statute requires the Office of Long-Term Care to promulgate regulations regarding the implementation of an aide training program for all long-term care facilities, which must include 15 hours of training specific to Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia. The regulations reference the Arkansas LTCF Nursing Assistant Training Curriculum, and require 90 hours of training plus one (1) hour of in-service per month. Facilities are encouraged to also provide in-service training in dementia to nursing home CNAs licensed before July 1, 2006. CNAs must pass a state competency exam.

Assisted Living Facilities

Arkansas regulates assisted living facilities as Level I and Level II facilities, depending on the extent of nursing care that may be provided in the facility. Both Level I and Level II facilities may also have Alzheimer’s Specialty Care Units (ASCU). There are staff training requirements for Level I and Level II non-ASCU, but the more significant and specific training requirements are for ASCU staff in Level I and Level II facilities, where 30 hours of initial training is required as well as eight (8) hours of in-service training annually thereafter.

Adult Day Care Providers
This regulation sets forth the requirements for staff training for adult day care providers, and includes dementia training.

**Caregiver Employed by In-Home Services Agency**

Arkansas statute and regulation require at least 40 hours of training for caregivers employed by In-Home Service Agencies, including non-specific dementia training.

**Disclosure Requirements**

There are statutory and regulatory requirements that nursing homes which have specialty care dementia units must make certain disclosures, including unique training requirements, to the Office of Long-Term Care, and to consumers.

**Medicaid Waiver**

Arkansas has a Medicaid waiver that covers costs in Level II assisted living facilities only as well as state plan personal care assistance (PCA) services.