COLORADO

University of Colorado University Hospital

Colorado statute establishes the Alzheimer’s Disease Center at the University, and mandates that the school of medicine conduct educational programs for physicians, hospitals and public health agencies concerning the methods of care and treatment for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.

Law Enforcement

Colorado statute establishes a grant-funded law enforcement “lifesavers” program which would assist law enforcement agencies with the ability to locate individuals with medical conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease using technology. Where the program is established, the Alzheimer’s association Colorado chapter is required to provide free training for law enforcement and families about the dangers of wandering and other potentially hazardous behavior secondary to Alzheimer's disease, as well as follow-up with families when a wandering incident has occurred. The training shall delineate the course of the disease and the potential for problematic behavior that exists in each stage, and shall provide families and the law enforcement community with the tools for handling difficult situations when they arise and strategies for warding off behavior before it threatens the life and safety of an individual with Alzheimer's disease.

Assisted Living Residences

Colorado regulation sets forth the training requirements for administrators of assisted living residences, and requires at least 30 hours of training, with at least 15 hours of training with an emphasis on meeting the personal, social and emotional care needs of the resident population served, for example, the elderly, Alzheimer’s, or the severely and persistently mentally ill.

Colorado regulation sets forth the training requirements for staff and volunteers of assisted living residences, and includes a non-specific requirement that training must be provided regarding individuals with Alzheimer’s.
Colorado provides for secured units in assisted living residences, but no special training requirements for staff were found.

**Home Care Agencies**

Colorado regulation requires home care agencies to provide personal care worker training that includes communication skills with individuals with dementia.

**Adult Day Services**

Colorado regulation provides for Specialized Adult Day Services for participants with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer’s and related disorders, and requires training specific to the needs of those populations.

**Nurse Aide Training Program**

Colorado regulation outlines the education and training requirements for nurse aide training programs, and includes training in the care of cognitively impaired individuals: (1) techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia (Alzheimer's and others); (2) communicating with cognitively impaired Clients; (3) understanding the behavior of cognitively impaired Clients; (4) appropriate responses to the behavior of cognitively impaired Clients; and (5) methods of reducing the effects of cognitive impairments.

**Medication Aide Training Program**

Colorado regulation outlines the education and training requirements for medication aide training programs, and includes techniques for addressing unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia, Alzheimer’s, and other cognitive impairments.

**Medicaid Waiver**

Colorado has a Medicaid waiver to cover costs in assisted living residences certified to participate in the waiver.