CONNECTICUT

Act Concerning Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Task Force Recommendations

Connecticut enacted Public Act No. 14-194, an Act Concerning the Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Task Force Recommendations on Training, effective October 1, 2014 and November 1, 2014. Regulations have not yet been promulgated. This Act included the following changes to the state’s training requirements regarding Alzheimer’s disease:

1. Nursing home administrators shall designate one staff person to make recommendations concerning residents with dementia including factors which affect person-centered care; wellness indicators; and staff training programs for dementia care capability. The administrator shall also ensure that all staff receive training upon employment and annually thereafter in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care.

2. Each home health agency, residential care home and assisted living services agency, and hospice care organization shall provide training and education on Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care to all staff providing direct care upon employment and annually thereafter.

3. All residential facilities serving persons with Down syndrome 50 years of age or older shall have at least one staff member trained in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care.

4. Alzheimer’s special care units or programs must provide Alzheimer’s and dementia specific training to all licensed and registered direct care staff and nurse’s aides who provide care to residents of the special care unit or program. This training includes not less than eight (8) hours of dementia-specific training and not less than eight (8) hours of training annually thereafter. In addition, Alzheimer’s special care units or programs must provide a minimum of one (1) hour of Alzheimer’s and dementia specific training to all unlicensed and unregistered staff.
5. Nursing home administrator licensure training requirements include training in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care for any person applying after November 1, 2014. In addition, to be eligible for licensure by endorsement, an applicant must have received training or education in long-term care including Alzheimer's disease and dementia symptoms and care. Administrator licensees must complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education every two (2) years, including training in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care.

6. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman statute is required to provide training to representatives in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care.

7. The Probate Court Administrator shall offer training to probate judges, paid conservators and other fiduciaries in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.

8. The Commissioner of Social Services shall ensure that employees of the state’s protective services agency receive annual training in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia symptoms and care.


Specialty Care Units

Connecticut has a statute that governs Alzheimer’s special care units in nursing facilities, residential care homes, assisted living facilities, adult congregate living facilities, adult day care centers, hospice and adult foster homes, and requires disclosure of special staff training requirements.

Respite Care

Connecticut has a statutory and regulatory scheme that provides respite care services for caretakers of Alzheimer’s patients, and mandates that qualified providers must have specialized training in Alzheimer’s disease.
Medicaid Waiver

Connecticut has a Medicaid waiver to cover costs for eligible individuals.