Nursing Facility Inspections

Under Iowa statute and regulation, nursing facility inspectors must have 12 annual hours of continuing education, including training in dementia.

Abuse in Facilities

Under Iowa statute, investigators of adult abuse in facilities and programs must receive special training with respect to abuse and dementia.

Nurses Aide Training

Iowa regulation for nurse aide training programs is comprehensive, and requires no less than 75 hours, of which 16 hours in specified areas must be completed prior to direct contact with residents. Training regarding the care of cognitively impaired residents must be included in the 16 hours of pre-direct care training, including: techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of persons with dementia (Alzheimer's and others); communicating with cognitively impaired residents; understanding the behavior of cognitively impaired residents; appropriate responses to the behavior of cognitively impaired residents; and methods of reducing the effects of cognitive impairments.

Assisted Living Programs, Adult Day Services and Special Memory Units in Residential Care Facilities

Iowa regulates dementia training standards in assisted living programs, adult day services and special memory units in residential care facilities. Personnel in assisted living programs and adult day services who are employed by a dementia-specific program must receive training in 12 areas, and are required to receive a minimum of eight (8) hours of dementia-specific training within 30 days of employment, as well as a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing education each year.
Staff working in memory care units of residential care homes must receive six (6) hours of specialized dementia training in 10 enumerated areas.

Medicaid Waiver

A Medicaid waiver is available to cover the costs of self-directed attendant care services in assisted living programs in Iowa.