Alzheimer’s Special Care Disclosure

Louisiana statutorily requires that any facility which offers to provide or provides a special program or special care unit for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder must make certain disclosures, including the disclosure of special training practices.

Nursing Facilities

Louisiana statutorily requires that all persons employed by a nursing home receive dementia care training. In Alzheimer’s special care units, employees providing nursing and nursing assistance training must receive eight (8) hours of dementia-specific training and an additional five (5) hours annually; employees with regular communicative contact with these residents must obtain four (4) hours of dementia-specific training and one (1) additional hour annually; and employees having only incidental contact must be given written information on interacting with people with dementia. In non-Alzheimer’s specific units, employees providing nursing assistance must obtain four (4) hours of dementia-specific training and two (2) more hours annually; employees with regular communicative contact with residents that is not nursing assistance must obtain four (4) hours of dementia-specific training and one (1) additional hour annually; and employees with only incidental contact will be given general written information about dementia.

The regulations require that all licensed nursing facility staff receive dementia-specific training in accordance with the timeframes set forth in the statute. Training topics for staff in Alzheimer’s special care units who provide direct face-to-face care must include: an overview of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; communication skills; behavior management; promoting independence in ADLs; and understanding and dealing with family issues. The dementia training curriculum must be approved by the Department of Health and Hospitals. Failure to comply with the requirements developed by the Department may result in sanctions.

Adult Residential Care Homes (Assisted Living)
Louisiana statutorily requires that all adult residential care providers licensed by the state must receive dementia care training. Employees working in special care units having direct face-to-face contact must obtain eight (8) hours of dementia-specific training focused on working with people with dementia as well as eight (8) hours of continuing education annually. Employees having regular contact with residents must receive four (4) hours of dementia-specific training and two (2) more hours annually. Employees only having incidental contact with these residents will receive written information on dementia. Employees who do not work in the special care unit are also required to have at least two (2) hours of dementia-specific training annually. (Adult residential care homes are assisted living.)

The regulations require that all licensed residential care providers receive dementia-specific training in accordance with the timeframes set forth in the statute. Training topics for staff in Alzheimer’s special care units who provide direct face-to-face care must include: an overview of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; communication skills; behavior management; promoting independence in ADLs; and understanding and dealing with family issues. The dementia training curriculum must be approved by the Department of Health and Hospitals. Failure to comply with the requirements developed by the Department may result in sanctions.

A separate regulation governs any Adult Residential Care Home that provides a special care unit, and mandates compliance with all statutory disclosure requirements.

**Nurse Aide Training**

This regulation governs nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs. It requires that the curriculum be a minimum of 80 hours in length, and that each unit objective have a performance criteria which is measurable and serves as a basis for the competency evaluation. The training program must ensure competency in caring for residents suffering from Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.

**Medicaid Waiver**

There is no Medicaid waiver at this time.