Alzheimer Special Care Program Disclosure

Maine law provides that entities that offer to provide or provide care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder through a special care program must provide certain disclosures, including disclosures regarding the program’s staff training and continuing education practices.

Nursing Facilities

By statute, nursing homes receive a dementia supplement payment for individuals assessed as having Alzheimer’s or other dementias, however the supplemental payment is contingent on the facility demonstrating a training program for care of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The program must be developed with consumer input and must include all staff. Specific requirements include eight (8) hours of classroom training and eight (8) hours of clinical training prior to the start of work for any individual working in a dementia unit. Quarterly in-service training is also required for all medical and non-medical staff who may be in direct contact with residents of the dementia unit. Specific hourly requirements include: six (6) hours of classroom training on Alzheimer’s and other dementias for all licensed staff, CNAs, social workers, and activities and housekeeping staff; an additional six (6) hours of clinical experience for licensed staff. In addition, CNAs are required to have 12 hours of in-service training, at least four (4) of which must address managing residents with cognitive impairments.

The pre-service orientation topics are general, but the inservice training topics are more comprehensive and detailed.

Assisted Living Special Care Units

Assisted living facilities with dementia units must provide eight (8) hours of classroom orientation and eight (8) hours of clinical orientation for all new employees assigned to dementia units.
Like the nursing home regulations, the assisted living regulations set out topics to be covered, which include an overview of dementias, behavior management, communications with family, creating a therapeutic environment, and other topics.

**Medicaid Waiver**

A Medicaid waiver and state plan services exist to cover the cost of services.