NEBRASKA

Alzheimer's Special Disclosure Act

Nebraska has a general statutory disclosure requirement that applies to any facility which offers to provide care to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The statute provides that these facilities must make certain disclosures regarding care and treatment, including information about staff training and continuing education. The disclosures must be made to the Department of Health and Human Services as well as to any person seeking placement within an Alzheimer's special care unit. Continuing education must be at least four (4) hours per year. Two regulations, one pertaining to nursing facilities and one pertaining to assisted living facilities, require that an application for licensure must include a disclosure of the licensee's staff training and continuing education requirements for Alzheimer's special care units. In addition, nursing facilities and assisted-living facilities must disclosure staffing training and continuing education where the facility seeks licensure for Alzheimer's special care units.

Assisted-Living Facilities

Nebraska regulation provides broad oversight of assisted-living facilities, including the requirements for assisted-living administrator and direct staff initial training and continuing education (though the requirements are not specific to dementia-training standards). The regulation also requires assisted-living facilities that provides services to special populations to ensure that the administrator and staff assigned to provide care are trained to meet the special needs of those residents. Facilities or special care units for persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia must be trained in the facility or units' philosophy and approaches in providing care and supervision to those persons with Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's disease process, and skills necessary to provide care for these residents. This regulation does not state the number of hours that are required for dementia-specific training.

Nursing Assistants

Nebraska regulates the training requirements for nursing assistants in nursing homes, and requires a minimum of 75 hours of instruction, including instruction in the care of cognitively

impaired residents. This dementia-related instruction must include: techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals 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. Nursing assistants must successfully complete an approved competency evaluation program consisting of a written or oral examination and a demonstration of skills.

Paid Dining Assistants

Nebraska regulates the training of paid dining assistants, and requires that a training course must include at least eight (8) hours of instruction, and must include instruction and competency evaluation in the special needs of residents in relation to feeding who may have additional medical conditions including, but not limited to: stroke, dementia, physical limitations, and/or mental illness.

Medicaid Waiver

Nebraska's waiver for aged and disabled individuals provides for additional services and payment under the Medicaid waiver for assisted living.