NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has a comprehensive statute governing Alzheimer's disease and training requirements across health care fields and law enforcement.

**Long-Term Care Facilities (Nursing Homes)**

New Jersey law requires long-term care facilities to provide annual training to CNAs, LPNs, registered professional nurses and other healthcare professionals who provide direct care to patients diagnosed as having Alzheimer’s or related disorders. They also must provide initial and ongoing training to all staff on dementia and must designate an employee with specialized training or experience in dementia to coordinate dementia education. The Health Department is charged with establishing a training program that is available to long-term care facilities for their voluntary use and also to develop training for adult day care facilities. Facilities that advertise or or hold themselves out to have an Alzheimer’s/dementia program must provide training in the specialized care of residents with dementia to all licensed and unlicensed staff that provide direct care to residents with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.

**Assisted Living Residences, Comprehensive Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Programs**

New Jersey law requires assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, and assisted living programs to develop and implement staff orientation and training that includes the care of residents with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. There are specific regulations governing personal care assistants who are employed in these facilities which require certified personal care assistants to complete 20 hours every two (2) years of continuing education. This education must include assisted living concepts and cognitive and physical impairments and dementia. Any facility which advertises or holds themselves out to have an Alzheimer’s/dementia program must provide training in the specialized care of residents with dementia to all licensed and unlicensed staff that provide direct care to residents with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.
Rooming and Boarding Homes

New Jersey law requires the commissioner to promulgate regulations setting standards in rooming and boarding homes, which assure that the needs of residents with special needs, including dementia, are met. This includes requirements for staff training regulations. By regulation, all staff employed at a rooming and boarding facility who have direct contact with residents must complete a five (5) day training program, including a day dedicated to an Alzheimer’s training. The training shall include: didactic information concerning Alzheimer's disease; audiovisuals; role plays; definition of dementia; associated behaviors of dementia (such as rummaging, wandering, impulsiveness, etc.); distinctive characteristics of individuals with dementia; and use of Assisted Living University or similar tapes. Home health aides must receive a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education annually. All new employees will be paired with an employee with more than one (1) year of experience who will serve as a role model and provide feedback on problem solving.

Adult Day Centers

By regulation, new staff in adult day services programs for persons with Alzheimer’s or dementia must receive dementia training within 30 days of start of employment which includes: methods of dealing with the specific problems encountered in the care of people with Alzheimer's disease, such as communicating with clients, necessary safety measures and common behavior concerns; and an overview of the progression of dementia and the different types of dementia. In addition, staff must attend specialized training regarding Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

Law enforcement:

New Jersey is one of the few states that, by statute, has training requirements for law enforcement and a program in place to return people with dementia who have wandered away from a caregiver. The law requires the Department of Law and Public Safety to establish training protocol for State Police and local law enforcement personnel on the use of the Safe Return Program to ensure the safe return of individuals with Alzheimer’s and related disorder. The
protocols shall include: guidelines for identifying persons with Alzheimer's disease and related
disorders; guidelines on communicating with persons with Alzheimer's disease and related
disorders; guidelines for caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders who
become lost and disoriented; and guidelines for instruction on the procedures the Safe Return
Program uses in locating lost individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

The state has an Alzheimer’s Disease Study Commission to review law enforcement training
requirements.

Medicaid Waiver

The state recently transitioned to a managed care demonstration waiver, and assisted living costs
are covered under that MLTSS waiver.