NEW YORK

Coordinating Council

New York law establishes a coordinating council for services related to Alzheimer’s disease to develop a state plan for addressing Alzheimer’s disease, with input from regional community forums. Its mandate includes identifying best approaches to training doctors, nurses and other medical and non-medical professionals and paraprofessionals to identify Alzheimer’s disease and assessment of community support services.

Alzheimer’s Community Assistance Program

By statute, the state established an Alzheimer’s Community Assistance Program to provide training programs and support services for volunteers, family members, and home health care workers for persons living with Alzheimer’s at home and in the community. The state is also authorized to operate training of medical students, physicians and nurses and train practitioners, caregivers, volunteers and informal caregivers re services and treatment of persons with Alzheimer’s disease.

Assisted Living Facilities

New York statute requires that assisted living facilities seeking an enhanced assisted living certificate to submit a plan setting forth how the additional needs of residents will be safely and appropriately met at such residence, and a written description of services, staffing levels, staff education and training, work experience, and any environmental modifications must be included. In addition, any assisted living facility that markets itself as serving individuals with special needs, including dementia, must also submit a plan.

*Some provisions of the of New York regulations governing assisted living facilities and adult care facilities were nullified as result of litigation. Research on Westlaw shows that there have be very recent amendments to the Adult-Care Facility (ACF) regulations which are not yet available for publication. These newly revised regulations likely contain requirements for staff training in dementia units in ACFs.
Nurse Aide Certification

New York regulation governs nursing homes and, among other requirements, sets forth the criteria for nurses aide certification and training. A nurse aide training program must be at least 100 hours in duration, and candidates must pass a state-authorized clinical skills competency examination and written or oral competency examination. The training curriculum must include the care of cognitively impaired residents including techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia; communicating with cognitively impaired residents; understanding the behaviors of cognitively impaired residents; appropriate responses to the behaviors of cognitively impaired residents; and methods of reducing the effects of cognitive impairments.

Medicaid Waiver

New York’s Medicaid waiver covers costs of an Assisted Living Program for home care services, but does not cover costs in assisted living residences.