RHODE ISLAND

Alzheimer’s Specialty Care Units and General Disclosure

Rhode Island has a comprehensive statutory and regulatory scheme requiring nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult day care facilities to provide special disclosures, including those regarding special staff training and education.

Assisted Living Residences

Rhode Island code governs licensure of assisted living residences, and provides for a special “dementia care” level of licensure. In order to qualify as a “dementia care” facility, there must be additional staff training specific to dementia care and one of these staff must be present at all times. By code, all staff working in dementia-level licensed residences that have direct contact with residents must have four (4) hours of initial training on dementia-care issues and practices, and two (2) hours of continued education annually thereafter.

This regulation governing assisted living residences provides additional training requirements for employee training in the facilities generally, as well as Alzheimer’s Dementia Special Care Units. All new employees must receive at least two (2) hours of orientation and training in a variety of areas prior to beginning work alone, and new employees who have regular contact with residents must also receive an additional 10 hours of orientation and training in a variety of area. None of these areas include dementia training. For new employees in Dementia Special Care Units, the regulations require that all new employees who will assist residents with personal care at the dementia level of care receive at least 12 hours of orientation and training in the the following areas in addition to the regular requirements: understanding various dementias; communicating effectively with dementia residents; and managing behaviors.

Adult Day

Rhode Island regulation specifies the training requirements for employees of Adult Day Health, and with respect to employees providing personal care in Alzheimer’s Dementia Special Care Units, the regulation requires at least 12 hours of orientation and training, in areas that must
include: understanding various dementias; communicating effectively with persons with dementia; and managing behaviors.

**Nursing Assistants**

Certification programs for nursing assistants must provide 80 hours of classroom training and 20 hours of practical assistance including care for patients with cognitive impairment. The regulatory section sets forth the more general rules, and includes licensure by examination at R. I. Admin. Code 31-5-26:4.0. The training includes caring for patients with cognitive impairment, including training in the techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia (Alzheimer's disease and others), communicating with patients, understanding behavior, appropriate responses to behavior, and methods for reducing the effects of cognitive impairment.

**Homemaker Training Programs**

Rhode Island regulation provides a curriculum for homemaker training programs, including the requirement for 25 hours of training. The training includes six (6) hours understanding basic human need including people with dementia.

**Case Management Agencies**

Regulations provide that agencies must provide staff training including training on dementias.

**Medicaid Waiver**

Rhode Island has two Medicaid waivers to provide for costs in assisted living residences.