

VIRGINIA

Certified Nurse Aides

Pursuant to Virginia regulations, certified nurse aide educational programs must include certain content for nurse aide education programs. The initial core curriculum must include at least 24 hours of instruction, including the care of cognitively impaired clients. The following topics must be covered: using techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia (Alzheimer's and others); communicating with cognitively or sensory impaired clients; demonstrating an understanding of and responding appropriately to the behavior of cognitively or sensory impaired clients; and using methods to reduce the effects of cognitive impairment. In addition, the regulations provide for the curriculum content for advanced certification education programs for certified nurse aides, including the care of cognitively impaired clients. These requirements include: signs and symptoms of dementia; concepts and techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of individuals with dementia, including, but not limited to agitation, combativeness, sundown syndrome, wandering, forgetfulness; basic concepts of communication with cognitively impaired clients, including techniques to reduce the effects of cognitive impairment; basic concepts of behavior management with cognitively impaired clients; and recognizing changes in the client's condition and reporting and documenting such changes.

Assisted Living Facilities

Virginia regulates staff training in assisted living facilities that care for residents with serious cognitive impairments due to dementia who cannot recognize danger or protect their own safety and welfare. The laws sets forth additional training required for administrator and direct care staff who must attend at least four (4) hours of dementia training in certain topics. Within their first year of employment, these same individuals must attend six (6) more hours of training in additional topics. There are also regulations governing Virginia's Alzheimer's 1915(c) waiver. The regulation requires that that all staff who have direct contact with Alzheimer's patients must have 12 hours of training on Alzheimer's/dementia care in the first 30 days. The regulation also specifies who may conduct this training and the qualifications those individuals must have. The

regulation also states that all direct care staff must have eight (8) hours of annual training regarding dementia care incorporating problem areas like weight loss, falls, elopements, behavioral issues, and adverse reactions to medications.

Adult Day Centers

Regulation governs training requirements for staff in licensed Adult Day Centers, and requires that staff must have at least 24 hours of training, including training in the needs of the center's target population (for example, those with dementia).

Law Enforcement

Virginia has a statute that requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services must establish training standards and publish a model of how law enforcement should communicate with and safely return individuals with Alzheimer's.

Medicaid Waiver

A Medicaid waiver is available to pay for services in an assisted living.