WEST VIRGINIA

Alzheimer’s Special Care Standards Act

The Alzheimer’s Special Care Standards Act regulates facilities offering to provide care for Alzheimer’s or dementia patients in a special care unit or program. Facilities regulated under this Act include: nursing homes, assisted living facilities or residential care communities, and adult day programs. The Act requires the Secretary to propose rules, setting minimum standards for Alzheimer's and dementia care training of all staff, employees and contractors that come in regular and direct contact with residents. The Act also requires disclosure of training ratios unique to the unit or program to the Department of Health and Human Resources, to any person seeking placement within an Alzheimer's special care unit or program, and to any legal guardian or relative acting on behalf of a resident or person seeking placement.

In addition, regulations promulgated under the Act require that a coordinator be responsible for the special care unit or program, and that the coordinator meet minimum qualifications, including completion of at least a 30 hour training course by a nationally recognized Alzheimer's/dementia caregiving resource or association, or have comparable training and experience. All staff assigned to special care units or programs must complete a minimum of 30 hours of training on the care of residents with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Staff shall have a minimum of 15 hours of documented training prior to supervised direct hands on resident care. An additional fifteen 15 hours of training shall be completed prior to unsupervised direct care. Supervision shall be provided by a staff person who has completed the entire training. All facility staff must have a minimum of eight (8) hours of documented annual training.

Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Facilities

Regulations in West Virginia govern the dementia training requirements for facilities other than Alzheimer’s special care units or programs. Staff in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult day programs are required to complete at least two (2) hours of requisite training in areas including: basic understanding of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; communication
approaches and techniques for use when interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia; prevention and management of problem behaviors; and activities and programming appropriate for these individuals. Additional annual training of two (2) hours is required for staff in certain facilities.

In-home care workers must provide proof of completion of dementia care training prior to renewal of their registration.

**Medicaid Waiver**

West Virginia does not have Medicaid waiver for assisted living.