

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Dementia Special Care Units Across Settings

Massachusetts requires dementia training for direct care workers, activities directors and supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and other licensed facilities (infirmaries maintained in a town, convalescent homes, rest homes, charitable homes for the aged, or intermediate care facilities for persons with an intellectual disability), including those with Dementia Special Care Units. This includes certain facilities that do not hold themselves out as providers of specialized services for dementia.

### Assisted Living Facilities:

Massachusetts regulation governs the training of employees of assisted living residences. It requires that all staff who have direct contact with residents receive seven (7) hours of orientation training, including at least two (2) hours devoted to the topic of dementia care and cognitive impairment. Residence managers and service coordinators must have two (2) additional hours of training in dementia care. Direct care staff in special care units must have an additional seven (7) hours of training on topics related to the specialized care needs of the resident population (*e.g.*, communication skills, creating a therapeutic environment, dealing with difficult behaviors, competency, sexuality, and family issues). Significant hours are also required for continuing education yearly, with special requirements for additional dementia training. The regulation also governs training for Personal Care Services Providers, but do not contain any additional dementia training requirements in that section.

### Adult Day Health

The Adult Day Health Program regulations do not include dementia-training standards, and so were not included herein. However, the regulation 404.406 states that programs serving members with cognitive impairments and dementia must meet the requirements listed in Appendix D of the Adult Day Health Manual.

### Home Care Aides

Aides providing services under a Home and Community Based Services waiver must have 12 hours of training using a curriculum developed by the state's Alzheimer's Association.

### Medicaid Waiver

Massachusetts does not have a Medicaid HCBS waiver that covers the cost of care in an assisted living facility, but does have a state plan PCA benefit that can be used.