

## **TEXAS**

### Disclosure Statute

Texas code and regulation mandates certain disclosures for nursing homes providing services to residents with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, including disclosure of special staff training.

### Nursing homes

By statute, Texas requires that the state establish training requirements on the care of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders for employees who work with those persons in nursing homes and related institutions. Minimum standards must provide that each registered nurse, LVN, nurse aide and nursing assistant who provides nursing services must have at least one (1) hour of dementia training per year. Regulations for Alzheimer's disease certified nursing homes require eight (8) hours of initial Alzheimer's training for all staff and consultants to the unit and four (4) hours of continuing education.

### Nurse aides

Texas code governs training requirements for nursing aides to be included on a registry of nursing aids for facilities dealing with the elderly, persons with disabilities, or persons with terminal illnesses. Nursing aides must complete 100 hours of coursework (specified by rule) and pass a competency evaluation. In addition, nursing aides must complete 24 hours of in-service training including the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease every two (2) years.

Texas regulations also specify requirements for nurse aid training and competency evaluation programs and includes 16 hours of training in enumerated topics including the care of cognitively impaired residents (techniques for addressing the unique needs and behaviors of a resident with a dementia disorder including Alzheimer's disease; communicating with a cognitively impaired resident; understanding the behavior of a cognitively impaired resident; appropriate responses to the behavior of a cognitively impaired resident; and methods of

reducing the effects of cognitive impairments). In addition, there is a requirement that renewal training include training in geriatrics and dementia/Alzheimer's care.

### Assisted Living

The statute governing assisted living facilities that promote themselves as offering services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease requires that the manager of the facility or the supervisor of the unit must have at least one (1) year of experience working with persons with dementia. By regulation, the manager must complete at least one course, with a minimum length of 24 hours, on management of assisted living facilities, which must include coverage of dementia. The manager also must complete six (6) hours of annual continuing education on dementia care. All staff members in Certified Alzheimer's Assisted Living Facilities must have four (4) hours of dementia-specific training before starting their jobs. Direct care staff must receive 16 hours of on-the-job supervision during the first 16 hours of employment including training in evacuation procedures for dementia populations, and must receive 12 hours annually of competency-based Alzheimer's education covering a very specific and extensive list of topics. Activity directors in a facility also must have at least 6 hours of continuing education annually. Facility training programs must be reported and approved as part of the certification process. Texas requires disclosure of dementia specific staff training on applications for certification to the state.

The regulations governing assisted living facilities generally only require that dementia is a general included topic for manager and direct care staff training.

### Medicaid Waiver

Texas has a Medicaid waiver to cover costs in assisted living.