



Legislative Committee on Aging

Department of Aging and Disability Services

Commissioner Jon Weizenbaum

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Review of NF and ALF Regulation

- DADS regulates nursing facilities (NFs) and assisted living facilities (ALFs)
 - NFs: surveyed for compliance with state licensure rules **and** federal certification requirements
 - ALFs: surveyed for compliance with state licensure rules
- NFs and ALFs:
 - **must** be able to meet the needs of their residents
 - **may** serve individuals with Alzheimer's without additional certification

Alzheimer's-Related Initiatives

- Alzheimer's certification
 - Similarities in certification for NFs and ALFs
 - Differences in certification for NFs and ALFs
 - Review of locking devices and use in Alzheimer certified and non-certified facilities
- Promoting quality in nursing facilities through the Quality Monitoring Program (QMP)
- Caregiver support

Alzheimer's Certification

- State licensure program for NFs and ALFs
- NFs and ALFs that choose to be certified as a facility that provides specialized care for individuals with Alzheimer's must comply with:
 - all state licensure rules;
 - federal certification requirements, if applicable; **and**
 - requirements specific to the Alzheimer's certification
- Advertising restrictions exist for facilities without this certification

Alzheimer's Certification in NF and ALF

- Both NF and ALF rules regarding Alzheimer's certification require:
 - additional staff training
 - planned and structured activity programs
 - provision of adequate security and supervision
- Rules for certified NFs and ALFs with locked units separate from other parts of the facility require specific building requirements for:
 - living areas
 - dining areas
 - access to outdoor spaces
 - toilet and bathing areas

Alzheimer's Certification NF vs. ALF

NF Alzheimer's Certification

- Diagnosis required
- Minimum staffing ratio
- Specially-trained staff must be assigned exclusively to the Alzheimer's unit
- NFs with locked unit not required to have Alzheimer's certification

ALF Alzheimer's Certification

- No diagnosis required
- No minimum staffing ratio
- Staff receive special training to work in the certified unit; may also work in other areas
- ALFs with locked unit must have Alzheimer's certification

Locking Devices in NFs and ALFs

Delayed Egress Locking Devices

- Identical to emergency door exits with alarm that sounds in restaurants and retail stores
- Facility using delayed egress not considered locked unit
- Alzheimer's certification not required for use in NF or ALF
- Instructions for operation must be clearly posted

Special Locking Devices

- Devices to meet clinical need for security, e.g., button to “buzz” in/out or access card
- Unit using special locking device considered locked unit
- Alzheimer’s certification not required for use in NFs
- Alzheimer’s certification required for use in ALF

Promoting Quality in Facilities

Quality Monitoring Program (QMP):

- Senate Bill 1839, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001
- Comprised of registered dietitians, nurses and pharmacists
- Goals:
 - Develop and share evidence-based best practices and innovations for outcome improvement
 - Regularly visit NFs for collaborative training and education and hands-on assistance for quality improvement
 - Partner with other agencies and organizations
 - Conduct rapid response team interventions for facilities as needed

Promoting Quality in Facilities

QMP Activities Related to Alzheimer's and Dementia Care:

- Culture change:
 - Joint partnership with Texas Culture Change Coalition to present an annual conference
 - Training focuses on dementia care and reducing the use of antipsychotic medications
- Texas Reducing Antipsychotics in Nursing homes (TRAIN):
 - Joint with TMF Quality Innovation Network
 - Trains on use of antipsychotic medications in the older adult population with dementia without psychosis
- Alzheimer's disease tool-kit:
 - Evidence-based best practices for assessment and treatment

Caregiver Support

- More than three million caregivers of all ages live in Texas and make up the backbone of the long-term services and supports system.
- These unpaid individuals face significant challenges. Specifically, caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease:
 - experience higher rates of stress than other caregivers.
 - spend 25% more hours per week providing care.
 - report they need general information/orientation, emotional support and respite care.

Caregiver Support

To address the needs of caregivers, DADS operates or supports several Alzheimer's-specific initiatives:

- National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program:
 - Caregiver training:
 - Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health (REACH) II
 - StressBusting
 - Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Partnership:
 - Central Texas and Capitol Area Alzheimer's Association
 - Coastal Bend and Del Mar College