

As it exists today, the health care system all too often fails both those living with dementia and their caregivers. More than 95% of individuals with dementia have at least one other chronic condition. Caring for someone with multiple chronic conditions — especially when that includes dementia — significantly complicates the level of care needed. Yet, health care providers often do not have access to appropriate training and do not have sufficient dementia-specific knowledge to effectively support those with Alzheimer's and other dementia. State governments must act to improve the quality of care for individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementia.



## **Increase the dementia competency of the health care workforce and ensure providers complete dementia-specific training.**

People living with Alzheimer's and other dementia face unique health care needs.

- » Require ongoing, evidence and competency-based, dementia-specific training for all employees in every provider setting involved in the delivery of care for people living with dementia.
- » Require training on the diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals with cognitive impairments for the renewal of a physician's license.
- » Issue evidence-based clinical assessment and diagnostic practice guidelines to licensed health care professionals within their scope of practice.



## **Improve residential and HCBS provider licensure requirements for dementia care.**

People living with Alzheimer's are nearly five times as likely to need skilled nursing facility care and more than three times as likely to require home health care than individuals living without the disease.

- » Ensure evidence-based and acuity-based staffing methods are a condition of licensure in all care settings.
- » Establish an appeals process for any individual involuntarily discharged or transferred from a residential facility for dementia-specific behaviors.



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### **Establish and implement quality measures that protect and enhance the lives of individuals living with dementia regardless of the care setting.**

More than 60% of seniors with Alzheimer's living in a nursing home have moderate or severe cognitive impairment, and 34% of those in residential care settings have Alzheimer's or other dementia.

- » Require data collection and reporting to the licensure agency for any involuntary discharge of individuals living with dementia.
- » Require all critical incidents related to individuals living with dementia be documented and reported to the licensure agency within 24 hours.
- » Adopt quality care indicators related to cognitive assessments, diagnosis, direct care staffing ratios, preventable hospitalizations and other care and safety needs for use in determining Medicaid or state reimbursement.
- » Require quality care indicators to be reported to the general public.



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### **Ensure that individuals living with dementia who are under court-ordered guardianship receive guardianship services by a dementia-educated guardian.**

Due to the impact of dementia on a person's ability to make decisions and in the absence of other advanced directives, people living with Alzheimer's disease may need the assistance of a guardian.

- » Require dementia-specific training for providers of public guardianship services.