Memory care

Memory care is specialized, 24/7 long-term care for individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia or severe cognitive impairment in a safe and structured environment. You can use your benefits to cover memory care services in assisted living facilities that have a memory care certification.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

People with an irreversible loss of cognitive or intellectual function, such as thinking, remembering and reasoning, may benefit from services in a memory care facility or unit. This does not include temporary or reversible memory problems due to delirium or behavioral or mental health disorders.

Memory care services include housing and meals, and providers are responsible for the general safety and care of residents. The facility is responsible for maintaining secure entrances and exits to reduce the risk of residents leaving the facility or wandering. Awake and physically present staff are available 24 hours per day to respond to each person's assessed needs, including their waking and sleeping patterns.

Memory care facilities or units are built to support people with Alzheimer's, dementia or severe cognitive impairment. They are designed with features that help meet their care needs, including:

- Varying levels of assistance with personal care, such as help with eating and drinking, including cueing, physical assistance with cutting up food and help with feeding.
- Intermittent nursing care.
- Specialized consultation and care for people who have developmental disabilities, behavioral challenges or mental illness.
- Daily activities based on a person's abilities, interests, habits and preferences, including:
  - Independent, self-directed activities;
  - One-on-one activities with a staff member or volunteer who engages the resident in a planned or spontaneous activity of interest. These may include personal care activities and provide opportunities for meaningful and positive interactions;
  - Group activities; and
  - Activities that are flexible and accommodate changes in a person's schedule, mood, energy and preferences. For example, a person who is awake at night must have access to staff support, food and appropriate activities.

CONTACT

Phone
844-CARE4WA (844-227-3492)

Email or chat
wacaresfund.wa.gov/contact

Language assistance is available.

PROVIDERS

You can choose any WA Cares provider who is registered to provide this service. We require all providers to meet minimum qualifications. You can find a provider at waclc.org/wacares.

When researching providers, you may wish to use the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' assisted living facility locator to review inspection reports and any complaints that resulted in a citation. You can also use the locator to search for WA Cares providers by county, city or zip code. Look for "WA Cares Fund" listed in the "contracted for" section.

RATES AND BILLING

Assisted living memory care units are billed at a daily rate. Cost of services may vary based on where you live and the services you require. You and your provider will agree on rates. You can find maximum rates and typical costs at wacaresfund.wa.gov/rates.