

## Assisted Living Facility Staffing Requirements

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### Issue

Do state regulations establish minimum staffing requirements for assisted living facilities?

### Assisted Living Facility Staffing Requirements

Connecticut does not license and regulate assisted living facilities; instead the Department of Public Health (DPH) licenses and regulates the “assisted living service agencies” (ALSAs) that provide assisted living services. Licensed ALSAs can only provide these services at managed residential communities (MRCs). For an overview of regulatory requirements for MRCs and ALSAs, see OLR Report [2012-R-0244](#).

DPH regulations establish the following nurse staffing requirements for ALSAs:

1. *Licensed Nursing Staff.* The regulations require the supervisor of assisted living services (see below) ensure that licensed nurse and assisted living aide staffing is sufficient at all times to meet client needs. (Assisted living aides are individuals who are trained, but not licensed, to assist with daily living activities.) At minimum, the ALSA must provide 10 hours per week of licensed nurse staffing for each 10 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent (FTE) assisted living aides ([Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19-13-D105\(a\),\(i\)](#)).
2. *On-Call Nurse 24 Hours a Day.* An ALSA must designate a registered nurse (RN), who must meet specific experience and educational requirements, to be on-call 24 hours per day. An ALSA can contract for on-call RNs with a licensed home health care agency. The on-call RN must be reachable by telephone and be available to make an on-site visit, if necessary, to respond to (1) assisted living aides giving care to clients and (2) client emergencies ([Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19-13-D105\(a\),\(i\)](#)).

3. *Supervisor of Assisted Living Services.* Regulations require an ALSA to have a supervisor of assisted living services, who must also be an RN meeting specific education and experience requirements. (In certain circumstances, the on-call RN can serve as the supervisor.) The number of hours that a supervisor must be on-site depends on the number of full-time or FTE licensed nurses and assisted living aides (at least 20 hours per week if there are 10 or fewer or 40 hours per week if there are 20 or fewer) ([Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19-13-D105\(\(g\).\(j\)\)](#)).

The regulations also require MRCs to employ an on-site service coordinator who has met certain education and experience requirements. If an ALSA serves no more than 30 clients, under certain circumstances the same individual may serve as both the on-site service coordinator and the supervisor of assisted living services ([Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19-13-D105\(c\).\(j\)](#)).

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