

481-69.29 Staffing

In addition to general staffing requirements outlined in 481-67.9, additional requirements at [481-69.29](#) are included in the rules.

Each tenant must have access to a 24-hour personal emergency response system that automatically identifies the tenant in distress and can be activated with one touch. While it doesn't state this, it is an expectation that the personal emergency response system will be responded to within a timely manner. Similar to nursing homes, the expectation outlined in survey findings is generally within 15 minutes or less.

In lieu of providing access to a personal emergency response system, a program serving one or more tenants with cognitive disorder or dementia will follow a system, program, or written staff procedures that address how the program will respond to the emergency needs of the tenant(s). This could include interventions such as more frequent rounding to identify if the tenant has needs to meet and is safe.

A dementia-specific assisted living program will have one or more staff persons who monitor tenants as indicated in each tenant's service plan. The staff will be awake and on duty 24 hours a day on site and in the proximate area.

A non-dementia specific assisted living will have one or more staff persons who monitor tenants as indicated in each tenant's service plan, be able to respond to a call light or other emergent tenant needs and be in the proximate area 24 hours a day on site.

All programs employing a new program manager will require the manager within 6 months of hire to complete an assisted living management class and all programs employing a new delegating nurse will require the delegating nurse within six months of hire to complete an assisted living manager class or assisted living nursing class. All programs must have at least one delegating nurse who has completed the training described in the rule.

The program is required to notify the department in writing within 10 business days of a change in a program's manager.

Finally, the program must develop and implement policy and procedures for addressing sexual relationships between tenants and staff and between tenants with dementia greater than Stage 5 on the Global Deterioration Scale (GDS).

Insufficiencies cited at 481-69 generally include when a new program manager and delegating nurse didn't complete the appropriate training within 6 months of hire, however, additional insufficiencies related to response to a call light or emergency call system are included periodically. While the rules are not outlined in this section, you'll also want to pay close attention to staffing as it relates to tenant rights and the overall staffing to ensure that the number of staff is sufficient to meet your tenant's needs.