

# Geriatric care management

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**Geriatric Care Management** (also known as "Elder Care Management", "Senior Health Care Management" and "Professional Care Management") is the process of planning and coordinating the care of the elderly and/or disabled to improve their quality of life and to maintain their independence for as long as possible. Health care and psychological care are integrated with the best possible combination of services such as: housing, home care services, socialization programs, financial and legal planning. A care plan tailored for each individual's circumstances is prepared after a comprehensive assessment. The care plan is modified when necessary based on the professional geriatric care manager's monitoring of the effectiveness of the components of the care plan. Professional geriatric care managers accomplish this by combining a working knowledge of health and psychology, human development, family dynamics, public and private resources and funding sources while advocating for their clients throughout the continuum of care.

## What is a Professional Geriatric Care Manager?

**Professional Geriatric Care Managers** are degreed, licensed and certified specialists who assist seniors and/or disabled individuals and their families in meeting their long term care needs. Most Professional Geriatric Care Managers have training in gerontology, social work, nursing, and/or counseling. Professional Geriatric Care Managers have extensive knowledge about the costs, quality, and availability of services in their communities. By evaluating an individual's level of functioning, health, emotional state, finances and their legal documents, a Professional Geriatric Care Manager helps to identify problems and offers timely, practical and cost effective solutions.

## Services Provided by Professional Care Managers

**Professional Care Managers** help individuals and families adjust and cope with the challenges of aging or disability by:

- Conducting care-planning assessments to identify needs, problems and eligibility for assistance;
  - Screening, arranging, and monitoring in-home help and other services;
  - Reviewing financial, legal, or medical issues;
  - Offering referrals to specialists to avoid future problems and to conserve assets;
  - Providing crisis intervention;
  - Acting as a liaison to families at a distance;
  - Making sure things are going well and alerting families of problems;
  - Assisting with moving their clients to or from a retirement complex, assisted living facility, Rehabilitation facility or nursing home;
  - Providing client and family education and advocacy;
  - Offering counseling and support.
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## Benefits of Professional Care Management Services

**Professional Geriatric Care Management** services can be used in a variety of situations:

- For a short-term respite or for ongoing assistance to long-term caregivers;
- To personalize services specifically to meet the client's wants and needs;
- To reduce miscommunications and stress while saving time and costs;
- To reduce inappropriate institutional care and overuse of services.
- To match the services to the client's needs;
- To prevent a crisis and unnecessary hospitalizations;
- Ongoing monitoring;
- Quality control.

## Who uses professional care management services?

**Professional Geriatric Care Management Services** are provided to:

- Families around the country;
- Banks and trust officers;
- Physicians and allied health professionals;
- Attorneys;
- Hospitals;
- Social service providers;
- Gerontology professionals;
- Senior housing communities.

## Care management fees

Care management fees are billed privately on a fee-for-service basis. They are not covered by Medicaid, Medicare nor by most health insurance policies. However, clients may be able to bill some services to Long term care insurance, depending on the history of the individual case.

## References

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  - National Care Planning Council ([http://www.longtermcarelink.net/about\\_care\\_manager.htm](http://www.longtermcarelink.net/about_care_manager.htm))
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# Article Sources and Contributors

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