



*Services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope*

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## **WHAT IS A GERIATRIC CARE MANAGER?**

Geriatric care managers are skilled professionals who specialize in assisting older adults and those responsible for their care in addressing the challenges of late life. They offer advice and support needed to make compassionate and wise decisions, while at the same time affirming the older adult's dignity and worth. The mark of a quality care manager is one who is compassionate toward those served, knowledgeable about resources, and readily available to clients. Most geriatric care managers have training in gerontology, social work, nursing, and/or counseling.

Geriatric care managers can help:

- Consult with families to offer guidance about eldercare options
- Provide comprehensive in-home assessments to identify needs and present a plan of care
- Coordinate and monitor services to ensure peace of mind for everyone involved
- Offer counseling and support to older adults and their families
- Evaluate and make recommendations for alternative living arrangements as needed
- Serve as a liaison to families who live far away
- Provide crisis intervention
- Give information and referrals that connect the older adult with community services
- Educate and counsel caregivers about their own self-care and priorities
- Review financial and legal issues that may impact the older adult's situation

Geriatric care managers at non-profit agencies generally charge for care management services based on one's ability to pay; those in private practice have set fees. Many long-term care insurance policies also provide coverage for such services. In addition, more and more employers are offering eldercare benefits to employees who are adult children involved with care for their parent(s).

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