



HouseWorks Resource Update

Geriatric Care Managers

Typically a nurse or social worker,

a Geriatric Care Manager (GCM) is a professional who specializes in helping seniors maintain the greatest possible degree of independence, safety, and comfort. GCMs guide families through the eldercare resource maze, communicate effectively with health care professionals, and help seniors accept services.

After meeting with seniors and their families to assess needs, GCMs develop comprehensive plans that may include financial planners, senior housing or nursing facility sponsors, medical and social service providers, and other resources. GCM's can also

- Schedule and escort to medical appointments.
- Help seniors transition from one setting to another (e.g. from home to assisted living).
- Review financial and legal issues and refer to specialists who can help the client conserve assets and avoid future problems.
- Help seniors complete advance directives to ensure that their wishes are known and respected.
- Fill out applications for Medicaid or other health and long-term care insurance.
- Provide money management services including bill-paying.
- Develop strategies to prevent clinical crisis and provide crisis intervention if necessary.

Selecting the right GCM to work with you and your family is critical to developing a successful working relationship. It is important to hire someone who you feel comfortable talking to openly and honestly and who you think you and your parent can grow to trust. When interviewing a GCM you may want to ask the following questions:

Are you a member of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers? Do you have other professional credentials?

How long have you been in practice?

What are your areas of expertise? (e.g. dementia, hospice, relocation, family dynamics, Medicaid application, insurance claims, etc.)

Are you familiar with the resources in the community where my parents live? Have you visited any of the senior housing developments or nursing homes?

What should I tell my parents if they refuse to meet with you?

How and when will you communicate with us?

Given my situation, how do you think you can be helpful to me?

What are your fees?

Do you have references I can call?

For more information about Geriatric Care Managers or to find a GCM in your area, contact your HouseWorks case manager or one of the organizations listed below.

4/08



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Greater Boston
800-928-3393

Greater Washington
866-238-8185

www.house-works.com

Resources

National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers

520-881-8008 www.caremanager.org

Mid-Atlantic Geriatric Care Managers

703-313-6114 www.midatlanticgcm.org

New England Geriatric Care Managers

617-426-3533 www.gcmnewengland.org