

7 Ways a Geriatric Care Manager Can Help Your Loved Ones



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7 Ways a Geriatric Care Manager Can Help Your Loved Ones



Geriatric care managers work with families to plan and coordinate the care of elderly loved ones. Their purpose is to help with long-term care needs, assist in keeping the loved one independent for as long as possible, and to improve his or her overall quality of life. Geriatric care managers are client-focused and they help family members understand issues from the point of view of their loved one.

Geriatric care managers are health and human services experts and are able to guide and advocate for families caring for elderly relatives. Most care managers are educated in a variety of related fields, including social work, gerontology, nursing or psychology, with a specialized focus on issues related to aging and elder care.

Despite good intentions, family members sometimes get caught up in their perception of what is best



for a loved one – geriatric care managers ensure the client's voice is heard and his or her needs are at the forefront of all important decisions. Never is this more important than when decisions are being made about long-term care. Often, family members struggle to see eye-to-eye on issues and it can often be overwhelming. The guidance of a geriatric care manager ensures the elderly loved one receives quality care and optimal opportunities for living.

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Working with a geriatric care manager helps families in a variety of ways, including:

1. Proper Assessment of Your Loved One

Geriatric care managers help families determine when and what type of care or assistance is needed. It can be difficult for adult children to admit their parents are not as independent and capable as they once were. Care managers put the needs of the elderly loved one into perspective in a caring and



compassionate manner. They assess the individual's needs and desires and help the family create a plan that is safe and affordable, and that ensures the best quality of life for their loved one.

2. Reduction of Stress within the Family

Making decisions about the care of an elderly loved one can be stressful and frustrating. Many families face strife when there is disagreement over care needs. Nobody wants to see their children and other relatives at odds over their own

care. Geriatric care managers take the burden off the family and offer solutions that address everyone's concerns.

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3. Assistance with Logistical Matters

Keeping an elderly loved one safe and supported is important, but this can take a great deal of time and planning. Geriatric care managers assist with finding housing, home care services, and medical care, so loved ones can focus on relaxing and enjoying time with their aging relatives.

4. Maintain Consistent Communication

Communication is one of the most important aspects of caring for an aging relative. Geriatric care managers coordinate communication between family members, medical professionals and other service providers, ensuring everyone is informed and “in the loop.”



5. Legal Counseling

Legal matters are often a concern for an aging relative. Should any legal issues need to be addressed, geriatric care managers are able to provide appropriate referrals to elder law attorneys or other necessary counsel.

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6. Financial Assistance

Financial matters are among the main concerns that arise when caring for an elderly relative. Geriatric care managers help families manage their expenses. They ensure placements are appropriate, services are not duplicated, and hospitalizations are necessary when recommended. Geriatric care managers work closely with the client and/or their power of attorney to ensure that the most cost effective services are provided.

7. Access to Resources

Finally, geriatric care managers are able to provide information to families about available resources specific to the needs of their loved one. It can take months to learn all you need to know about the assistance available for helping elderly loved ones. A geriatric care manager is aware of federal and state entitlements, local programs, and technologies to enhance safety or security, and can provide the information needed to make the best and most informed decisions possible for elderly loved ones.

If you face any of the following, assistance from a geriatric care manager might be appropriate:

- Concern for an elderly family member or friend
- Inability to visit with loved ones as frequently as they wish
- Need for additional care at home
- Desire to learn more about services available to help elderly loved ones
- Need for assistance with the decision-making process regarding home health care services
- A feeling of frustration, exhaustion, or “burn out” in relation to caring for an elderly relative
- Need to learn about financial options to assist in paying for a loved one’s care
- Disagreement among family member on the best care options for a loved one

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If any of these sound familiar, it is time to contact a geriatric care manager. Aging Care Advocates can help by assisting seniors and their families with immediate and long-term care needs. Aging Care Advocates provides in-home assessments to help families deal with a variety of caregiving issues and helps to develop a specialized care plan that is unique to that individual. Since 2002 Genevieve Faulk, owner of Aging Care Advocates, and her team have been working to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families.

Genevieve Faulk is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work. She earned a graduate Certification in Gerontology from the Gerontology Center at the University of Georgia and a Certification in Geriatric Care Management through the University of Florida. Genevieve is also a Certified Senior Advisor, a Certified Family Mediator with the Supreme Court of Florida, and a current member of many state and national professional organizations.

Genevieve strives to provide the very best in geriatric care management by her high hiring standards. Every geriatric care manager on Aging Care Advocates' team has their Master's degree in social work, gerontology, counseling or has an RN degree. All her geriatric care managers currently have their certification in care management or are working towards it. In addition, all care managers are required to have 2 years or more of experience working with the senior population.

To learn more or to schedule a consultation, contact **Aging Care Advocate** at **813.246.4120**, **727.286.3220** or by email at info@agingcareadvocates.com.

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