

Conference on Aging

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about Geriatric Care Managers

Compiled by Heather Kinderthain

What is a Geriatric Care Manager (GCM)?

A GCM is a professional who specializes in helping older adults and their families manage the challenges of aging.

Are GCM's licensed?

No, however they are usually licensed nurses, social workers, therapists, medical practitioners or other professionals with training and experience in elder care scenarios. GCM's can become certified.

What is the professional association for GCM?

ALCA – Aging Life Care Association is a professional association for GCM. They are vetted and agree to a code of ethics.

How can a Geriatric Care Manager help get my loved one better care?

A GCM can help you understand options and manage expectations. There are some universal realities and industry standards that a GCM can help you understand. They can also give caregivers information to improve the quality of care.

Do I have to have an organized medical history prior to consulting a GCM?

No, a GCM will be able to meet you where you are and help you understand the situation and give you the next best steps to take.

What questions should I be prepared to ask a GCM?

When hiring a GCM you will want to find out if they are a good fit for you. Ask them their work history and find out if they have experience helping people in your situation.

Does insurance pay for GCM's?

No, GCM's bill \$75 to \$200 an hour for their services. If a person cannot afford to pay, there are care management services available through the Area Agencies on Aging.

Can “A Place for Mom” or “Caring.com” help navigate care options?

Yes, and these companies are paid for by the communities that they have contracts with. So, they will only refer you to their referral partners. There may be other options that they are not aware of, and they typically are not highly connected in the communities they serve. When you navigate their websites, you will notice that their resources are not always up to date and the numbers listed always takes you to a counselor for A Place for Mom or caring.com.

Do businesses provide GCM?

Many communities have staff who might serve as care managers for their clients. Communities are required to have Care Plans. Skilled Nursing Facilities provide social services and discharge planning. Some home care companies have Care Managers. It’s a good idea to start with the communities that you are already a part of to see if they can provide the services you need. If they cannot, then consider hiring a GCM to help you.

Who can be a GCM?

Typically, A GCMs might have history as Social Workers, Nurses, Gerontologists, Occupational Therapists, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, or other professionals with training and experience in elder care scenarios.

Presenting Partner:



Supporting Partners:



Contributing Partners:

