

The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers Proclaims May As Geriatric Care Manager Month



NAPGCM Members Across the Country Holding Special Events to Educate the Public about How Geriatric Care Managers Help Caregivers and Older Adults

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The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers has designated the month of May as National Geriatric Care Manager Month. Professional Geriatric Care Managers throughout the country will celebrate National Geriatric Care Manager Month by providing seminars, webinars, special events related to geriatric care management, open houses and other educational activities for the public.

"Geriatric Care Managers across the country work tirelessly to help aging family members and their caregivers to navigate the healthcare maze," said C. Byron Cordes, president of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers. "We hope to help the public better understand the work we do by establishing May as Geriatric Care Manager Month and devoting time towards improving education and awareness about geriatric care management."

What is a Professional Geriatric Care Manager?

A Geriatric Care Manager (GCM) is a health and human services specialist who acts as a guide, advocate, and resource for families caring for older relatives and persons with disabilities. The GCM is trained and experienced in any of several fields related to care management, including nursing, gerontology, social work, or psychology.

Certified Geriatric Care Managers are specialized human service professionals advocating and directing the care of seniors and others facing ongoing health challenges. Working with families, their expertise provides the answers at a time of uncertainty. Their guidance and advocacy leads families to the actions and decisions that ensure quality care and an optimal life for those they love.

The following are signs for family caregivers that aging loved ones may be in need of assistance and it may be time to call in an expert such as a professional geriatric care manager:

- *Not taking medication correctly
- *Neglecting to pay bills or cash checks, vulnerable to financial abuse
- *Concerns about driving ability
- *Getting lost while driving or walking
- *Hoarding
- *Signs of confusion, poor judgment, increased memory loss
- *Frequent falls or bruises
- *Unexplained weight loss (10 lbs. or more in a 12-month period)
- *Extremely suspicious
- *Loss of interest in social activities/social isolation
- *Forgetting food cooking on the stove, burnt pots, appliances left on

To find a professional geriatric care manager in your local area, please visit the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers website at <http://www.caremanager.org> and click on "Find a Care Manager."

Geriatric care managers who are members of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) are committed to adhering to the NAPGCM Pledge of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

About NAPGCM

The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM) was formed in 1985 to advance dignified care for older adults and their families. Geriatric Care Managers are professionals who have extensive training and experience working with older people, people with disabilities and families who need assistance with caregiving issues. They assist older adults who wish to remain in their homes, or can help families in the search for a suitable nursing home placement or extended care if the need occurs. The practice of geriatric care management and the role of care providers have captured a national spotlight, as generations of Baby Boomers age in the United States and abroad. For more information please visit <http://www.caremanager.org>

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