

# How to Find a Geriatric Care Provider

Finding the right geriatrician can be a challenge. When you start looking for one, start with an understanding of your four options: geriatric care clinics, board-certified geriatricians, physicians advertising as geriatric care services, and other medical providers.

## Geriatric Care Clinic

A geriatric care clinic is your best option when choosing geriatric care. While standalone geriatricians are subject to restrictions imposed by Medicare, geriatric care clinics are not. They have entire teams of health care providers and staff who specialize in geriatric care. These clinics offer a robust range of services designed to help you maintain your health and help you recover from illness episodes. Examples of these services include transportation to and from clinics, care managers for each patient, short wait times, significantly longer times with a physician or provider, 24-hour access to a doctor or nurse, a team approach, excellent coordination of additional social services, and so on.

If a geriatric care clinic is the option you choose, find a true geriatric clinic by looking for the ones open only to Medicare-aged patients and staffed with geriatric care focused professionals.

## Board Certified Geriatrician

Another excellent option is a geriatrician. When selecting your geriatrician, look for one who is board certified, is accepting new patients, is willing to accept your insurance, and is younger than you. Finding a geriatrician can be difficult. Don't be discouraged if it takes you some time to find one. There are many resources out there designed specifically to help you find geriatricians in your area, including your insurance company website, Medicare, and practitioner search function on American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Board of Family Medicine, and the American Geriatric Society websites.

All physicians must deal with the restrictions set forth by insurance companies, namely that they are expected to see patients in high volume which only allows them a small amount of time with each patient. While a board certified geriatrician still must deal with these limits, they're more able to offer your specialized care focused on health issues affecting patients aged 65 and older.

## Physician Specializing in Geriatrics

Depending on your location, you may find that there just aren't many geriatricians available. If this is the case, we suggest you find a physician who advertises as a geriatric care physician while not board certified. These physicians, in our experience, are adept in geriatric care and are dedicated to helping serve the older adult population because they have taken additional training in this area.

## Other Medical Providers

If you're still unable to find a good geriatric care solution, we suggest you find an advanced nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant who has an education and background in geriatric care, one who is working under a physician with a similar background.