

# Health in Aging Stories

**Have you been under the care of a healthcare provider who has special training in caring for older adults? If so, we'd appreciate you telling others about your experience. You can do this through *The AGS Foundation for Health in Aging* "Stories site," at**

**<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/caregiver/>**

As the population of older Americans continues to grow, an increasing number of us are facing the challenge of finding healthcare that meets the unique needs of older adults—ourselves or our loved ones.

Here at the *American Geriatrics Society's Foundation for Health in Aging (FHA)*, we know that [geriatric healthcare professionals](#)—healthcare providers who have special training and expertise in treating older adults—can make a tremendous difference in their lives. We've heard it over and over from individuals and families who have shared their stories with us. If you've been cared for by a geriatric healthcare provider, we invite you to share your story with us and others.

## **What is a Geriatric Healthcare Professional?**

Geriatric healthcare professionals are dedicated to helping older people stay as healthy and independent as possible. They have special training in caring for older adults, and focus on preventing and treating disease and disability in later life. There are different types of geriatric care providers:

- A **geriatrician** is a medical doctor who is specially trained to take care of the complicated health problems that many older adults have. Most geriatricians are primary care physicians who are board-certified in either Family Practice or Internal Medicine and have completed additional training to obtain a "Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine."
- **Geriatric psychiatrists** are physicians who have completed additional training so they can meet the mental health needs of older adults.
- **Geriatric nurse practitioners** are registered nurses with advanced training and experience in caring for older adults, including those with complex health problems.
- **Geriatric social workers** usually have a master's degree in social work and training and experience counseling and arranging needed services for older adults.
- **Geriatric Pharmacists** usually have a doctorate of pharmacy along with the training and experience required to address polypharmacy and the complicated medication needs of older adults.

## Why Tell Your Story?

*People have always shared their stories.* By sharing our stories, we learn from one another.

***By sharing your story*** about your experiences with geriatrics health professionals you can help people whose situations are similar to yours learn more about good care for themselves or their loved ones.

***By sharing your story***, you can help the Media and policy makers understand what a difference specialized geriatric care can make in the lives of older adults.

***By sharing your story***, you can help us in our ongoing efforts to ensure that older adults get high quality healthcare.

## Guidelines

Your story can be long or short. No need to worry about writing style. We ask only that your stories be about your experiences with healthcare providers who have specialized training in caring for older adults.

With your permission, we will post your story to our Web site or share it with the Media or policy makers.

**Submit your story online today at <http://www.americangeriatrics.org/caregiver/> !**

Or

Send your stories to:  
American Geriatrics Society  
Attn: Erin Weller  
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 801  
New York, NY 10118  
or Email: [eweller@americangeriatrics.org](mailto:eweller@americangeriatrics.org)