

Case Manager

You are the person who makes a hospital, an insurer and a family all talk to each other about one patient.

TYPICAL PAY

\$63,770

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$105k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospitals, insurance companies,
county offices, community agenci...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Psychology, biology and English. Volunteer somewhere that puts you in a room with people who are having a bad week.
- 2 Two-year or four-year degree** 2 to 4 years
 An associate degree gets you in as a case aide. A bachelor's in social work, nursing, psychology or human services gets you a caseload of your own.
- 3 First job** 1 to 2 years
 Care coordinator, county caseworker, housing case manager or discharge planning assistant. You learn the systems by fighting with them.
- 4 Supervised case management experience** 12 to 24 months
 Certification bodies generally want at least a year of supervised, full-time case management work before they will let you sit an exam.
- 5 Certified Case Manager** After the experience
 The board certification from the Commission for Case Manager Certification. Most hospital and insurance postings ask for it or expect it within two years.

Pros and cons

- + You fix real problems for real people, same week
- + Many routes in: nursing, social work, human services
- + Hospitals and insurers pay well and hire everywhere
- Caseloads are too big almost everywhere
- You get blamed by both the family and the system
- Documentation eats the hours you wanted for people

Good to know

Over 50,000 people hold the credential

The Commission for Case Manager Certification says it has more than 50,000 certificants and over 30 years of credentialing experience, which makes it the largest case management credentialing body in t...

The government cannot quite count this job

Case managers are spread across so many occupation codes that many of them land in a leftover federal category literally named Social Workers, All Other. Roughly 81,000 people sit in that one bucket.

Optional boosts

Hospital case management. Utilization review for an insurer. Workers compensation case management. Behavioral health and substance use.

Where these numbers come from

O*NET OnLine: Social Workers, All Other (21-1029.00)
 The Commission for Case Manager Certification
 National Association of Social Workers
 Council on Social Work Education

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/case-manager>



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