

## Overview of the Health Care Profession

Health care risk management is a diverse profession in a dynamic and evolving health care ecosystem. Health care risk professionals hold a wide variety of titles and work in a cross section of organizations. The truth is that we operate in a wide range of settings and organizations. But we have many professional attributes in common. And, because there are so many different types of opportunities for health care risk management professionals, our profession is incredibly interesting and rewarding.

The American Society for Health Care Risk Management is the professional association for health care risk professionals. We are nearly 6,000 members strong

### What kind of backgrounds do health care risk professionals have?

Health care risk professionals come from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. We have an interest in the broad-based discipline of health care risk management because we enjoy working to positively influence health care organizations, and contributing to the delivery of safe and trusted health care. We are men and women in every state across the country, working for large and small communities and organizations.

### What do health care risk professionals do?

It's a very dynamic profession - this is the fun part of being a health care risk management professional. By nature, we are flexible professionals who work as an integral part of delivering safe and trusted health care. Some examples of what we do include: risk financing, event and incident management, clinical aspects, financial aspects, legal aspects, general business aspects, the psychological and human factors of health care, statistical analysis, insurance, risk financing and claims management.

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## How can I become a health care risk professional?

There is not a direct, singular route to becoming a health care risk professional. However, you should have a basic understanding of risk management within the health care world through practical experience and/or education. Common educational backgrounds include business, insurance, clinical/nursing, medical and law. However, there are other backgrounds that health care risk professionals come from as well, such as pharmaceuticals, biometrics, health law and others.

It's not a one-size-fits-all profession.

## Where are the jobs?

You can find employment in a wide variety of organizations such as hospitals, insurance carriers and brokers; health care organizations; consulting firms; long-term care; ambulatory care; hospice; physician practices; pharmaceuticals; governmental agencies; independent urgent care walk-in centers; and other organizations that support the health care continuum.

## Why might I choose health care risk management as a career?

If you enjoy a dynamic work environment that requires an investigative mindset and you're open to the ongoing changes and challenges often necessary in health care, you may have the attributes of a successful risk management professional. Most importantly, in health care risk management, you can directly have a positive impact on the delivery of health care and on patient safety.