

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Office of Health Services

**Policy Number:** 507.01.03

**Effective Date:** 03/21/2023

**Page Number:** 1 of 2

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health Services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

Health Services for offenders, including physical, mental and dental care, will be provided under the direction of the Office of Health Services, functioning in concert with the Facilities Division of the Department. This policy is applicable to all facilities that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders including county and private prisons.

**II. Authority:**

A. Ga. Admin. R. & Regs. 125-1-2-.01 and 125-4-4-.04.

**III. Definitions: None.**

**IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:**

A. The Office of Health Services role will include the oversight of GDC health care delivery through the following primary functions and activities:

1. Health Services will be provided in accordance with the Rules of the Board of Corrections with respect to health care delivery;
2. Establishing GDC Standard Operating Procedures with respect to offender health services to ensure adequate standards for health care delivery within the facilities. Monitoring and managing the statewide health care budget on behalf of the agency to include goals, objectives, performance measurement activities and outcomes;
3. Establishing a statewide Continuous Quality Improvement program for the delivery of health care to offender(s);
4. Establishing and monitoring the Contract for Comprehensive Health Services through the selected vendors;
5. Exercising oversight of Utilization Management of health care services through the selected vendors;

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6. Coordinating Health Services in conjunction with the authorized vendor, planning with respect to facilities, equipment, staffing, auditing and other aspects of service delivery;
  7. Evaluating health care delivery through facility audits and inspections, including the auditing of health care within private prisons. County Institutions and private prisons will be monitored through contract compliance;
  8. Approving the allocation of resources to support offender health care delivery in such areas as budget, staffing plans, facility missions and health-related operations at all sites;
  9. Exercising clinical authority over the delivery of health care including the practice of medicine (physical and mental), dentistry, and nursing, in concert with vendor clinicians;
  10. The final authority overseeing clinical decisions for individual patients will reside with the Office of Health Services Statewide Medical/Mental Health/Dental Director; and
  11. Monitoring and reviewing offender deaths through mortality peer review.
- B. The Office of Health Services also has primary responsibility for maintaining and monitoring the contracts with the selected vendors to ensure system wide health care delivery in the most appropriate and efficient manner possible. This includes:
1. Review and approval of the contracts for the provision of comprehensive health care; and
  2. Description of services and all on-going initiatives to manage for effective health care delivery.

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None.