

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Office of Health Services

Policy Number: 507.01.03

Effective Date: 1/19/2022

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 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. Monitoring and assuring compliance 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 Results Based Budget (RBB) 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;

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Office of Health Services

Policy Number: 507.01.03

Effective Date: 1/19/2022

Page Number: 2 of 2

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Physical Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

6. Coordinating Health Services planning with respect to facilities, equipment, staffing 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, 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 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.