

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Hospital and Specialized Ambulatory Care

**Policy Number:** 507.04.09

**Effective Date:** 8/31/2023

**Page Number:** 1 of 2

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

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

**Access Listing:**  
Level II: Required Offender  
Access

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

Offenders will have access to Hospital and Specialized Ambulatory Care, to include emergency, medical, dental, and mental health, as deemed medically necessary. This policy is applicable to all facilities that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders to include private and county prisons.

**II. Authority:**

A. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 125-4-4-.09 and 125-4-4-.10.

B. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.01.04 Responsible Health Authority, 507.04.08 Clinical Diagnostic Testing, 507.04.11 Referrals for Outside Healthcare Services, 507.04.13 Continuity of Care for Ambulatory Services, 507.04.14 ASMP Medical Bed Space, 507.04.16 Utilization Management, 507.04.17 Community Hospital Admission and Discharge, 507.04.18 Discharge Planning, 507.04.20 Offender Orientation for Access to Health Services, 507.04.87 Advance Directives, 507.04.89 Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders, and 508.25 Psychiatric Hospitalization;

C. NCCHC 2018 Adult Standard: P-D-05; and

D. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-04, 5-ACI-6A-05, and 5-ACI-6A-08 (Mandatory).

**III. Definitions:**

A. **Hospital** - Any health care facility licensed by the State of Georgia for the provision of acute care or secondary/tertiary level care.

B. **Specialized Ambulatory Care** - An array of specialty and sub-specialty services, accessed on an outpatient basis, considered to be beyond the local primary care level. This includes access to comprehensive clinics on-site at ASMP, those selected clinics accessed by way of telemedicine, as well as specialty clinics and services in the local community.

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

- A. Any agreement entered into by a contractor on behalf of GDC is subject to review and approval by the Office of Health Services.
- B. In cases where needed medical services are not available with outside providers or Hospitals that are relied upon, the facility may use sites for which there is not a written agreement.
- C. For hospitalization, urgent care, or emergency department:
  - 1. Patients will be seen by a qualified health care professional upon return by the next working day.
  - 2. Recommendations will be reviewed for appropriateness of use in the correctional environment.
  - 3. A clinician will be contacted upon offender's return to ensure proper implementation of any orders and to arrange appropriate follow-up care.
- D. In all instances of hospitalization, communication with the contract vendor Utilization Management is paramount. See SOP 507.04.16 Utilization Management and 507.04.17 Community Hospital Admission and Discharge.
- E. Hospitalization of mental health patients will be in accordance with SOP 508.25 Psychiatric Hospitalization.

**V. Attachments:** None.

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