

FACT SHEET

Healthcare Facility Regulation

Overview

The mission of the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division (HFR) is to protect the residents of Georgia by ensuring the delivery of safe, quality health care services through effective regulation and oversight activities. To achieve its mission, HFR licenses, monitors, and inspects a variety of health care facilities and services and verifies compliance with state statutes and with rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Community Health.

HFR also investigates complaints about the care received in health care facilities and serves as the State Survey Agency performing federal certification inspections in health care facilities participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid program through a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Transition

In the 2008 Legislative Session, SB 433 was passed mandating that several of the facility licensure functions that were part of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) move to the Department of Community Health (DCH) on July 1, 2009. Additionally, in the 2009 Legislative Session, HB 228 moved additional functions related to health care facilities from DHR to DCH. On July 1, 2009, DCH created the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division within the department. At that time, HFR included health planning activities through the administration of the Certificate of Need (CON) program. Effective July 1, 2015, health planning activities were removed from HFR to a separate Office of Health Planning within DCH.

Organizational Structure

HFR is composed of four primary units: Operations; Long Term Care Services; Health Care Services; and Personal Care Homes. There also is a dedicated unit for surveyor training and coordination with federal agencies.

Goals

HFR ensures that patients are protected from harm through the provision of services in a safe environment.

The core principles are applied to four areas of business: initial licensure, certification, periodic survey and complaint investigations. Facilities requesting an initial licensure or certification survey are reviewed to ensure they can provide the services in compliance with state licensure or federal certification requirements. Periodic surveys are conducted to verify ongoing compliance with rules and regulations enacted by the state and federal governments. Complaints are received, triaged and

Core Principles

HFR is committed to protecting Georgia's health care consumers by ensuring the delivery of safe, quality health care services through the enforcement of state statutes, regulations and federal certification requirements.

To this end, HFR has developed three core principles that guide its day-to-day activities:

- Protection
- Quality
- Regulatory Compliance



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An Overview of Healthcare Facility Regulation

investigated to assure that health care facilities are meeting licensure and certification requirements.

For More Information

Visit www.dch.georgia.gov/healthcare-facility-regulation for more information.