Definition:
An institution designed, equipped, and staffed to receive two or more persons for diagnosis, treatment and other health services under the supervision of a practitioner for periods continuing 24 hours or longer. Hospitals are further categorized into 6 types: Short Term, Rehabilitation, Children's, Long Term, Critical Access, Psychiatric

Exemption:
• Any hospital operated by the federal government.
• Components appropriately certified as other kinds of providers or suppliers. i.e., a Nursing Home, Home Health Agency, Rural Health Clinic, or Hospice.

Type Regulation:
State: An institution must obtain a permit.
Federal: An institution choosing to participate in federal programs must be certified.

Accredited Hospitals: A hospital accredited by JCAHO or AOA is deemed to meet all Medicare requirements for hospitals (except the requirements for Utilization Review, the special conditions for psychiatric hospitals, and the Skilled Nursing Facility Requirements for swing-bed designation). A percentage of deemed hospitals are surveyed each year to validate the survey results of the accrediting body. The state agency continues to investigate complaint surveys as directed by CMS.

To obtain more information about certification and general information on Hospitals, visit one of the following CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) websites:
• Short Term, Children’s, Rehabilitation and Long Term - Hospital Center
• Critical Access- Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) Center
• Psychiatric- Psychiatric Hospitals- Certification and Compliance

Legal Authority:
O.C.G.A. § 31-7-1, Title 31- Health; Chapter 7- Regulation and Construction of Hospitals and other Health Care Facilities; Article 1- Regulation of Hospitals and Related Institutions- Definitions
O.C.G.A. § 31-7-5, Title 31- Health; Chapter 7- Regulation and Construction of Hospitals and other Health Care Facilities; Article 1- Regulation of Hospitals and Related Institutions- Exemptions from permit requirements; application of this chapter to federally operated institutions.
O.C.G.A. § 44-5-140, Title 44- Property; Chapter 23- Acquisition and Loss of Property; Article 6- Anatomical Gifts

Rules:
State:
• Rules and Regulations for Hospitals, Chapter 290-9-7, effective December 12, 2002.
• Anatomical Gifts, Chapter 290-5-50, effective December 12, 1992.
• General Licensing and Enforcement Requirements, Chapter 111-8-25, effective August 3, 2010
• Disaster Preparedness Plans, Chapter 290-5-45, effective June 7, 1984

Federal:
• All hospital types except Critical Access: Conditions of Participation for Hospitals, CFR Title 42, Chapter IV, Part 482.1 through 482.57, plus 482.66 (for those hospitals that choose to be certified)
• Critical Access Hospitals: Conditions of Participation: Specialized Providers, CFR Title 42, Chapter IV, Part 485.606 through 485.647 (for those hospitals that choose to be certified)
• Psychiatric Hospitals must also meet the 3 special conditions: Conditions of Participation for Hospitals, CFR Title 42, Chapter IV, Part 482.60 through 482.62

Fees:
• Permit: <25 Beds, $250; 25≤50 beds, $750; >50 beds, $1500; annually