

# FACT SHEET



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

## 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 programs through a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Similar inspections of mammography sites are conducted pursuant to a contract with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

HFR manages a Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Grant Fund that is funded with financial penalties imposed by CMS when nursing homes are found to be in violation of CMS conditions of participation. Georgia receives a portion of the collected funds to be used to support projects that improve the overall quality of life and/or care of nursing facility residents.

### Organizational Structure

HFR is composed of two primary units: State Licensure Programs and Federal Survey and Certification Programs. There also is a dedicated unit for surveyor training; an operations office that processes applications, complaints and information requests; and a legal department that manages the appeals process for enforcement matters.

### 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 investigated to assure that health care facilities are meeting licensure and certification requirements. Based on information collected through the inspection and survey process, enforcement actions are taken against facilities that fail to meet state standards. Such action may include license suspension or issuance of fines.

### For More Information

Visit <https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionoffices/healthcare-facility-regulation>.

### 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