



Rural Free Standing Emergency Departments



Presentation to: Rural Hospital Stabilization Committee
Presented by: Healthcare Facility Regulation Division



Mission

The Georgia Department of Community Health

We will provide Georgians with access to affordable, quality health care through effective planning, purchasing and oversight.

We are dedicated to A Healthy Georgia.

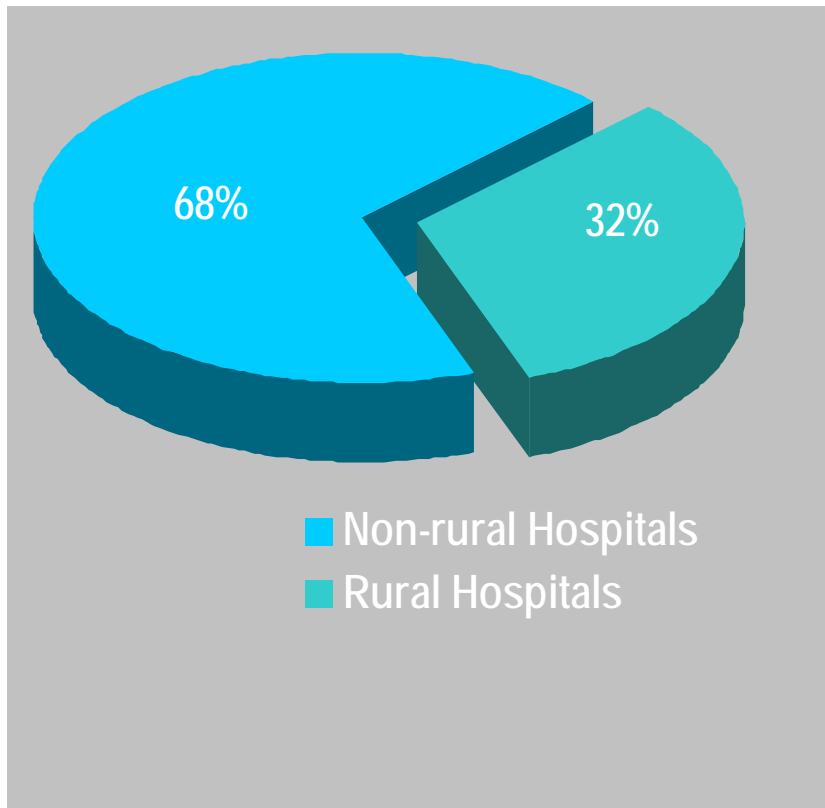
Program Overview

<i>Program Name</i>	Healthcare Facility Regulation Division (HFR)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	Support the delivery of safe, accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services through effective and efficient planning, regulation and oversight.
<i>Program Goals</i>	To protect the public safety and reduce the unnecessary duplication of services.
<i>Target Population and Clients</i>	Providers and health care consumers.

Georgia's Licensed Healthcare Facilities

- HFR currently licenses more than 10,000 facilities, including hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, birthing centers, narcotic treatment programs among other facility types.
- Each facility type is governed by regulations that have been promulgated in accordance with Georgia law and posted to the Secretary of State's website.

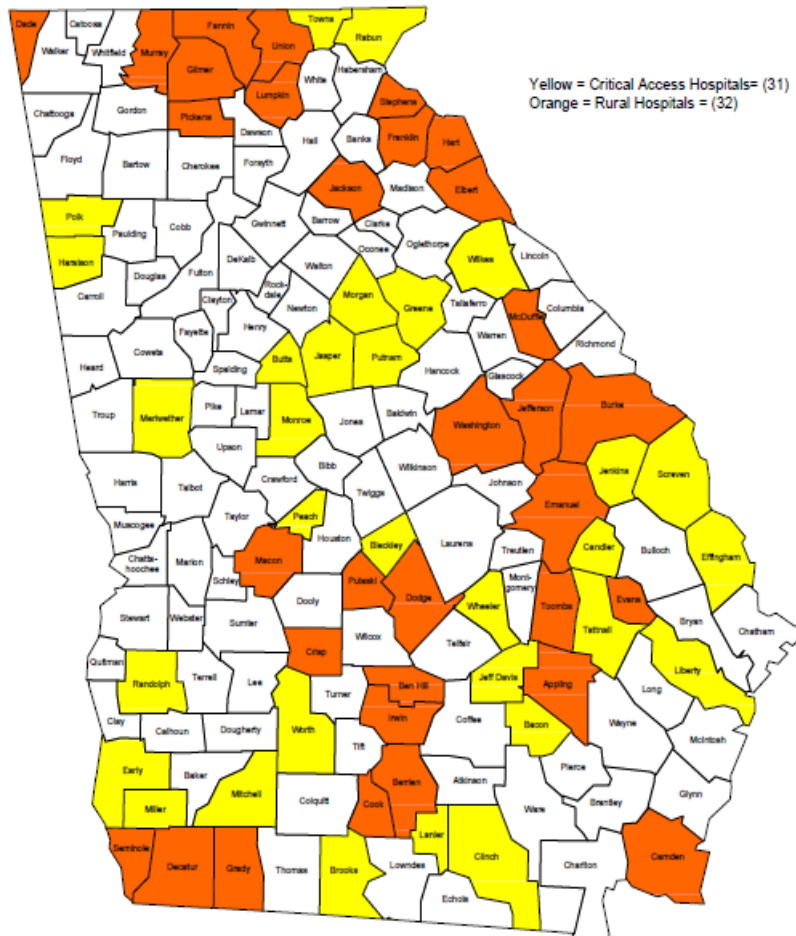
Georgia's Licensed Healthcare Facilities



Hospitals

- HFR currently licenses 194 hospitals (including general, critical access and specialty hospitals)
- 62 of those hospitals are located in rural counties

Georgia Rural Counties



O.C.G.A. § 31-6-2(32)

"Rural county" means a county having a population of less than 35,000 according to the United States decennial census of 2000 or any future such census.



Georgia Hospital Regulations

- For purposes of state licensure, all hospitals are governed by Georgia law and HFR's Rules and Regulations for Hospitals, 111-8-40
- Effective May 19, 2014, HFR's Hospital Regulations were revised to add a new classification for rural hospitals downgrading their services to become a Rural Free Standing Emergency Department.

Timeline for Revised Hospital Rules

<i>March 24, 2014</i>	DCH Board Approved Initial Adoption
<i>April 15, 2014</i>	Public Hearing and Comments
<i>April 29, 2014</i>	DCH Board Approved Final Adoption
<i>May 19, 2014</i>	Rules Became Effective

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HFR Rule 111-8-40-.02 – Definition

1. is currently licensed by the Department as a hospital or was previously licensed by the Department as a hospital and such license expired within the previous 12 months;
2. is located in a rural county as defined by O.C.G.A. § 31-6-2(32);
3. is located no more than 35 miles from a licensed general hospital;

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HFR Rule 111-8-40-.02 – Definition (cont.)

4. is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day; and
5. provides non-elective emergency treatment and procedures for periods continuing less than 24 hours.

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Required Services

- Non-elective emergency services (continuing less than 24 hours)
- For each patient, regardless of individual's ability to pay:
 - an appropriate medical screening examination to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists;
 - stabilizing treatment within its capability;
 - transfer of the patient to another facility that has the capability of stabilizing the patient if the RFSED is unable to do so within its capability or if requested by the patient.

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Optional Services

- elective, out-patient surgical treatment and procedures for periods continuing less than 24 hours;
- basic obstetrics and gynecology treatment and procedures for periods continuing less than 24 hours; and/or
- elective endoscopy or other elective treatment and procedures which are not performed in an operating room environment.



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Additional Requirements

1. RFSED shall have a governing body that approves the organization, scope, and availability of patient care services that will be provided.
2. RFSED shall make all reasonable efforts to secure written agreement(s) with hospital(s) within 35 miles to facilitate patient referral and transfer between the facilities, with the use of emergency and non-emergency transportation.

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Additional Requirements (cont.)

3. RFSED shall have operational policies developed with participation from one (1) or more licensed physicians. The must identify which patient care services will be provided directly and those that will be provided through contract or other arrangement.
4. RFSED shall comply with all other provisions of the Hospital Rules that are applicable to services provided.

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Licensure Process:

- Review and submit application Packet and Instructions posted on HFR's website:

<http://dch.georgia.gov/licensure-forms-applications>

- Application will be reviewed by HFR
- HFR will schedule on-site visit (based on date provided by facility as to readiness)

Questions

Contact Information for Questions:

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