

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Responsible Health Authority		
Policy Number: 507.01.04	Effective Date: 10/2/2018	Page Number: 1 of 2
Authority: Commissioner	Originating Division: Health Services Division (Physical Health)	Access Listing: Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

A Responsible Health Authority shall be designated by the Medical Director at each facility where health care services are provided for offenders. This procedure is applicable to all facilities, that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders to include private and county prisons.

II. Authority:

- A. GDC Board Rule: 125-4-4-.02;
- B. GDC Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): 507.01.02, Medical Autonomy;
- C. NCCHC 2014 Adult Standard: P-A-02 Responsible Health Authority;
- D. NCCHC 2015 Juvenile Standard: Y-A-02 Responsible Health Authority; and
- E. ACA Standards: 4-4380 and 4-4381.

III. Definition:

Responsible Health Authority - A licensed physician, designated to a facility, responsible for arranging all levels of health care and ensuring quality and accessible health services for offenders.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. Designation of Responsible Health Authority:
 1. Each GDC facility where offender health care is provided will identify a Responsible Health Authority by written agreement, contract, or job description;
 2. In facilities where a Responsible Health Authority is not readily available, another qualified health care professional may assume the responsibilities of the Responsible Health Authority with the understanding that all matters of medical judgment rest with a designated licensed physician who normally provides medical care at the facility. If the designated licensed physician is not

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readily available, medical judgement will be provided by the Medical Director or designee.

B. Duties:

1. The Responsible Health Authority's duties include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Arranging for all levels of offender health care; and
 - b. Assuring quality of health services that are accessible and timely for all offenders.

C. Medical Judgment as Sole Province:

1. Medical judgment is the sole province of the physician; and
2. Non-medical personnel will not provide medical judgment.

V. Attachments: None.

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