

# Georgia Composite Medical Board

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June 4, 2026

First and foremost, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (“Board”) would like to acknowledge the contributions of Advanced Practice Providers (“APPs”) in the state of Georgia. Since the release of our IV Hydration/Therapy Position Statement, the Board has had the opportunity to hear from many APPs and healthcare stakeholders in the state.

We would like to emphasize that the purpose of the Board's IV hydration position statement was not to create new law or policy. Rather, the position statement was issued as a communication tool to provide clarity regarding the Board's longstanding interpretation of laws and regulations. Further, the purpose was to combat a rise in compensated arrangements that do not have a meaningful collaboration between the physician and the APP, which has been made more apparent as we collect additional data through our new ThoughtSpan system.

*The Board's primary concern, as always, is the health and safety of the patients of Georgia. The Board is not advising any APPs or physicians to close their practice or stop practicing as a result of the position statement. Further, the Board is not terminating any currently active protocols as a result of the position statement. We remind physicians of their ethical and legal obligations to their patients. Specifically, the Board reminds providers of their shared obligation for their patients' continuity of care.*

Moving forward, when approving protocol agreements or considering enforcement, the Board makes a commitment to closely examine the relationship between the physician and the APP with the purpose of ensuring independent medical judgment and a truly collaborative relationship between the physician and the APP.

We appreciate the public's patience as we engage in continued discussions with community stakeholders and will pursue collaboration with other regulatory boards, including the Board of Nursing and the Board of Pharmacy, on an interpretation of Georgia law and regulation that ensures the continued health and safety for the citizens of Georgia. As we continue our discussions, we will advise the public of further updates.

Respectfully,

Jason S. Jones  
Executive Director  
Georgia Composite Medical Board

Kathryn Cheek, MD  
Board Chair  
Georgia Composite Medical Board