

# LAW OF GEORGIA

## ON HEALTH CARE

### Chapter I. General Provisions

#### Article 1

This Law regulates the relations between state authorities and natural and legal persons in the field of health care of citizens.

#### Article 2

The legislation of Georgia in the field of health care comprises the Constitution of Georgia, treaties and international agreements of Georgia, this Law, and other legislative and subordinate normative acts.

#### Article 3

Unless this Law contains a special reference, the concepts used have the following meaning:

- a) patient autonomy – a patient's right to make independent decisions on all issues related to the provision of medical care to him/her;
- b) HIV – human immunodeficiency virus;
- c) unmanageable infections – infectious diseases against which there is no highly effective specific preventive means;
- d) independent medical practice – professional activities of a person with a higher medical education who holds a state certificate confirming his/her right to engage in independent medical practice, for the results of which he/she shall be responsible under the legislation of Georgia;
- d<sup>1</sup>) independent nursing practice – professional activities of a person with the appropriate medical education, for the results of which he/she shall be responsible under the legislation of Georgia;
- e) donor – a living or deceased person from whom an organ, part of an organ, or tissue is removed to transplant into another person or to administer treatment to another person;
- f) euthanasia – the intentional termination of the life of a person with an incurable disease in its terminal phase at his/her request;
- g) endemic disease – a disease caused by harmful factors active in a certain territory or by the deficiency of a factor that is necessary for health;
- g<sup>1</sup>) voucher – a negotiable financial instrument in materialised and/or non-materialised form transferred by the State to a target group, which is intended to finance medical services or personal insurance;
- h) congenital disease – hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria, galactosemia, or adrenogenital syndrom;
- i) especially dangerous pathogens – highly contagious biological agents and toxins of especially dangerous infections which can cause serious damage to public health and safety;
- j) informed consent – the consent of a patient or his/her relative or legal representative to medical intervention necessary to be performed for the patient, after intervention-related risks to the patient's health and life have been explained;
- j<sup>1</sup>) National Clinical Practice Recommendations (Guidelines) – evidence-based recommendations for the management of a clinical condition (nosology/syndrom), developed on the basis of medicine, which the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall approve by an individual administrative-legal act;
- j<sup>2</sup>) Clinical Condition Management State Standard (Protocol) – clearly determined stages of clinical condition management and sequence of actions developed on the basis of the National Clinical Practice Recommendations (Guidelines), which the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall approve by an individual administrative-legal act;
- k) critical condition – a form of deterioration of health when a person's life is in danger and, unless urgent treatment is administered, death is inevitable;
- l) second opinion – an opinion on the diagnosis, prognosis, or optimum treatment method for a disease by a specialist, whom a patient consults bypassing the physician in charge, if the patient is not confident about the correctness of the diagnosis and treatment or if application of the intended treatment method entails serious consequences (e.g., a mutilating operation);
- m) persistent vegetative state – ‘social death’, chronic unconsciousness characterised by an alternation of alertness and sleep and, at the same time, by the absence of conscious actions and adequate reactions to external irritants and events that are characteristic of behavioural or brain activity;
- n) medical error – unintentional diagnostic and/or therapeutic measures inappropriate for the patient's condition taken by a doctor, which is a direct cause of harm;



- o) implied consent – a situation when a patient consults a doctor to receive medical care and the latter, regardless of the existence of a written or verbal agreement, interviews, examines him/her, etc.; from that moment, the doctor shall undertake responsibility towards the patient as provided for by law;
- p) autopsy – autopsy performed by an appropriately certified physician to ascertain the cause of death and/or the diagnosis of a disease, or for educational or research purposes;
- q) patient – a person who receives medical care, regardless of his/her health status;
- r) patient's relative – a person who has a priority right to take part in the decision of issues relating to the provision of medical care to the patient or those relating to the patient's death, according to the priority sequence established by the legislation of Georgia;
- s) primary health care – the first contact of an individual or a family with the health care system; continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated medical services primarily based on a system of family medicine, available for each member of society, and implying measures of health promotion, disease prevention, and widely prevalent disease treatment and rehabilitation, including maternal and child health care, family planning, palliative care, and ensuring accessibility to essential medicines;
- s<sup>1</sup>) emergency medical care – medical care without which a patient's death, disability, or serious deterioration of health status is inevitable;
- s<sup>2</sup>) family doctor – a physician-specialist having the right to deliver primary multi-profile medical services to persons of all ages and both genders as provided for by the legislation of Georgia;
- s<sup>3</sup>) Preventive Immunisation National Schedule – age indicators, dates, and procedures of preventive immunisation against infectious diseases established by a normative act;
- s<sup>4</sup>) palliative care – active, multi-profile care primarily aimed at relieving pain and other pathological symptoms, and providing social aid and psychological and emotional support to patients. It is intended for patients whose disease is no longer curable; by providing such care, it is possible to improve the quality of life of patients and their families;
- s<sup>5</sup>) palliative treatment – a medical service, which does not radically improve a patient's status, does not change a hopeless prognosis, and is aimed to temporarily relieve the patient's condition;
- t) resuscitation – a complex of measures aimed at resuscitation;
- u) recipient – a patient for whom transplant organs, transplant parts of organs, or transplant tissues removed from a donor are intended;
- u<sup>1</sup>) public health – a system of state obligations aimed to protect, maintain, and restore a person's physical and mental health through disease prevention, disease prevalence study and disease control, promotion of healthy lifestyle practices and environmental health;
- v) especially dangerous infections – diseases caused by highly pathogenic biological agents posing a particular risk to human and/or animal health;
- w) biomedical research – any experiment conducted on human beings or animals whose only aim or one of the aims is to deepen knowledge in the field of medicine;
- x) continuity of medical care – uninterrupted implementation of measures of preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, and palliative care;
- y) health services basic package – a list of health services whose cost is financed by the State;
- z) medical (physician-patient) confidentiality – information about a patient's physical or mental status, his/her public or work-related activities, or family or private life that a doctor or other medical personnel obtain while carrying out their professional activities, including the fact of visiting a doctor, as well as the circumstances of death;
- z<sup>1</sup>) medical activities (medical services) – activities related to disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; maintaining a patient's positive health status, and improving and restoring a patient's health (mental, social, medical, and physical rehabilitation); palliative care; medical care of a patient; prosthetics; medical transportation of a patient; a patient's medical education; forensic medical expert examination; forensic psychiatric expert examination; public health measures; and services accompanying medical activities conducted in medical institutions, which shall be carried out according to the established procedure;
- z<sup>2</sup>) medical intervention – any manipulation or procedure performed by a physician or other medical personnel for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, prevention, rehabilitation, and palliative care;
- z<sup>3</sup>) health care personnel – a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, and other persons whose activities are related to disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, patient rehabilitation, palliative care, and forensic medical expert examination; as well as health promotion specialists and managers of medical and health care services;
- z<sup>4</sup>) medical techniques – the functional and technological arrangement of medical institutions;
- z<sup>5</sup>) family medicine – a primary health care-oriented medical discipline, based on an independent system of professional training, research and clinical practice that differs from that of other medical disciplines;
- z<sup>6</sup>) forensic medical expert examination – the process of ascertaining medical and biological issues arising during legal proceedings;
- z<sup>7</sup>) essential medicines – drugs used for replacement therapy whose permanent intake is vital for maintaining life or positive health (for example, insulin);



z<sup>8</sup>) description of speciality – a list of issues and skills that a doctor holding the right to independently practice a medical speciality must know and master;

z<sup>9</sup>) terminal stage – terminal stage of an incurable disease or condition;

z<sup>10</sup>) brain death – complete and irreversible termination of the functions of the brain and upper segments of the spinal cord against the background of maintaining breathing and blood circulation using special means;

z<sup>11</sup>) continuous medical education – a component of continuous professional development that includes both self-education and participation in formal education/training programmes, as well as different activities that contribute to the consolidation and improvement of a doctor's professional knowledge and skills (participation in congresses and conferences, publishing research papers, teaching practice, etc.);

z<sup>12</sup>) post-graduate professional training – professional training following higher medical education based on practical medical activity and aimed at mastering a medical speciality;

z<sup>13</sup>) continuous professional development – a period following higher medical education and post-graduate professional training that continues for the entire duration of the professional activity of the subject of independent medical practice and is an integral part of medical practice, the goal of which is ensuring compliance of theoretical knowledge and practical skills of a subject of independent medical practice with the achievements and techniques of contemporary medicine;

z<sup>14</sup>) ensuring environmental health – surveillance over compliance with sanitary and hygiene rules and standards of safety at workplace, in daily life, at leisure, of food, education and radiation and chemical safety, and sanitary-epidemiological rules; issues of state sanitary and hygiene and sanitary-quarantine border control;

z<sup>15</sup>) health promotion (strengthening health) – a complex of educational, social, economic, environmental, and professional factors that are directed at maintaining positive health status and strengthening health;

z<sup>16</sup>) epidemiological control – a system of preventive and anti-epidemic measures of contagious diseases epidemic process management;

z<sup>17</sup>) (deleted);

z<sup>18</sup>) unidentified dead body – a dead body that has not been identified within a fixed term after being found despite measures taken according to the legislation of Georgia and whose burial shall be ensured by the State;

z<sup>19</sup>) unattended dead body – a dead body that has been identified, but when it is impossible to ascertain (find) a relative or a legal representative of the deceased, or another person entitled to receive the inheritance, and whose burial shall be ensured by the State;

z<sup>20</sup>) random control – an administrative action taken by a competent body of the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia according to the violation risk assessment;

z<sup>21</sup>) Medical Mediation Services Agency – a body adjudicating disputes at a competent agency of the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia whose function is to adjudicate disputes arising between a patient and an insurance company, between an insurance company and a health care provider, and between a patient and a health care provider;

z<sup>22</sup>) competent agency – a legal entity under public law, established by a normative act of the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia that shall, within the competence determined by this Law, the agency statute, and other legislative and subordinate normative acts of Georgia, ensure state health care policy enforcement and fulfil the relevant regulatory functions in the field.

*Law of Georgia No 889 of 25 May 2001 - LHG I, No 15, 11.6.2001, Art. 50*

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 2331 of 6 June 2003 - LHG I, No 19, 1.7.2003, Art. 125*

*Law of Georgia No 2527 of 18 July 2003 - LHG I, No 22, 8.8.2003, Art. 162*

*Law of Georgia No 1435 of 13 May 2005 - LHG I, No 25, 2.6.2005, Art. 163*

*Law of Georgia No 3836 of 7 December 2006 - LHG I, No 48, 22.12.2006, Art. 317*

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

*Law of Georgia No 4816 of 25 May 2007 - LHG I, No 19, 11.6.2007, Art. 171*

*Law of Georgia No 4921 of 8 June 2007 - LHG I, No 22, 19.6.2007, Art. 202*

*Law of Georgia No 5129 of 29 June 2007 - LHG I, No 27, 17.7.2007, Art. 262*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March of 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*



#### **Article 4**

The principles of state health care policy shall be:

- a) universal and equal accessibility of health care for the population within the limits of the State obligations provided for by the state health care programmes;
- b) protection of human rights and freedoms in the field of health care, and acknowledgement of the honour, dignity, and autonomy of the patient;
- c) independence of doctors and other medical personnel within the limits determined by the legislation of Georgia;
- d) compliance of the health care system with the economic development strategy of the country and ensuring the system's manageability;
- e) protection of patients in prisons or in places of detention, as well as those suffering from a disease, from discrimination during the provision of medical care;
- f) introduction of universally acknowledged norms of medical ethics in the field of health care;
- g) providing the population with comprehensive information on all existing forms of medical care and its availability;
- h) contributing to cooperation with international health care organisations;
- i) the State's responsibility for the volume and quality of health care services envisaged by mandatory health care insurance programme;
- j) the priority of primary health care, including the priority of emergency medical care, participation of the State and private sectors therein, development of family medicine and the institute of the family doctor and ensuring the accessibility of health care services based on it;
- k) the State's responsibility for certification of doctors, licensing of medical activities, and issuing permits to medical institutions;
- l) participation of the State, society, and each citizen in the promotion of healthy lifestyle practices and in the protection of living, working, and recreational environments;
- m) diversity of forms of ownership and legal-organisational forms in the field of health care services and their coexistence based on equal rights;
- n) application of administrative sanctions envisaged by the legislation for actions harmful to the health of the population;
- o) programme-based and targeted programme-based health care state financing; the autonomy of the financial, economic and contractual relations and the management system to ensure self-financing and self-governance of health care institutions of the state sector as provided for by legislation;
- p) state financing of biomedical and health care research according to existing resources and creation of favourable conditions for attracting financial resources from the private sector for this;
- q) participation of professional associations, as well as other non-governmental organisations, in the formation of a modern and effective system of health care through consultations, scientific and professional discussions, developing projects, and participating in the protection of patients' rights;
- r) supporting the development of the process of medical mediation in disputes arising between a patient and an insurance company, between an insurance company and a health care provider, and between a patient and a health care provider.

## **Chapter II. Citizens' Rights in the Field of Health Care**

#### **Article 5**

Citizens of Georgia and stateless persons with the corresponding status in Georgia shall have the right to receive medical care envisaged by state health care programmes approved under the established procedure. Medical care shall be provided by an appropriate legal entity engaged in medical practice, regardless of its form of ownership and legal form.



## **Article 6**

1. It shall be prohibited to discriminate against a patient due to his/her race, skin colour, language, sex, religion, political and other beliefs, national, ethnic and social affiliation, origin, property status and title, place of residence, disease, sexual orientation, or a personal negative attitude.

2. It shall be prohibited to discriminate against a patient in prison or in a place of detention during the provision of medical care.

*Law of Georgia No 2716 of 9 March 2010 - LHG I, No 12, 24.3.2010, Art. 53*

## **Article 7**

All citizens of Georgia shall have the right to receive comprehensive and objective information, and to obtain a second opinion about their health status in a form that is understandable to them, except in cases provided for in Article 41 of this Law.

## **Article 8**

1. A verbal or written informed consent shall be necessary for a patient's participation in the processes of therapeutic, diagnostic, rehabilitative, preventive and palliative care. The list of medical interventions that require written consent shall be determined by the legislation of Georgia.

2. The rights of ill persons and healthy volunteers taking part in a scientific research shall be protected by the legislation of Georgia and recognised international norms of conducting biomedical research on human beings.

3. A verbal informed consent shall be necessary for a patient's participation in the process of medical education.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

## **Article 9**

A patient shall have the right to refuse to undergo any medical intervention, except for cases envisaged in the legislation of Georgia and in Article 76 of this Law. A patient shall also have the right to refuse to take part in a scientific research or in the process of medical education.

## **Article 10**

All legally capable persons shall have the right to express their will in writing in advance on undergoing resuscitative, life-saving, or palliative treatment, and/or palliative care in case of being diagnosed to be in the terminal stage of an incurable disease.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

## **Article 11**

Performing medical intervention on patients who are legally incapable or unable to make a conscious decision, or to involve them in medical education and medical research, shall only be admissible taking into consideration their will expressed in advance (when they were capable of making a conscious decision), and, in the absence of such will, with the informed consent of their relative or legal representative.

## **Article 12**

The decision on performing medical intervention on a patient, who is legally incapable or unable to make a conscious decision when emergency medical care is required or the condition is life-threatening, shall only be made taking into consideration the patient's interests.

## **Article 13**

It shall only be admissible to provide medical care for a person in prison or in a place of detention, including during a hunger strike, based on his/her informed consent. Medical care shall be provided according to the rules provided for in this Law.

*Law of Georgia No 2716 of 9 March 2010 - LHG I, No 12, 24.3.2010, Art. 53*

## **Article 14**

Patients shall have the right to choose or change medical personnel and/or a medical institution, taking into consideration the conditions of an insurance agreement. An agreement shall provide the possibility of making such a choice.



**Article 15**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall ensure pursuit of the State's health care policy and shall develop and issue respective legal acts on issues within the scope of its authority, unless otherwise determined by the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March of 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

*Law of Georgia No 5665 of 28 December 2011 - website, 11.1.2012*

**Article 16**

1. The mechanisms of health care state management shall be:

- a) certification of doctors, licensing of medical activity, issuance of permits to medical institutions;
- b) medical care quality assurance;
- c) approval of the National Clinical Practice Recommendations (Guidelines) and the Clinical Condition Management State Standards (Protocols) by the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs;
- d) quality control of therapeutic agents, regulation of pharmacy and pharmaceutical production;
- e) facilitating the introduction of new therapeutic agents and medical technologies;
- f) legal support of the relations between a patient and a legal entity engaged in medical practice;
- g) promotion of healthy lifestyle practices;
- h) developing and implementing medical programmes;
- i) contributing to the development of medical science;
- j) sanitary-hygienic standardisation and epidemiological control;
- k) contributing to developing public health by appropriate institutional arrangements and implementation of state medical programmes;
- l) taking measures necessary for fulfilment of functions of a medical mediator adjudicating disputes arising between a patient and an insurance company, and between an insurance company and a health care provider, as well as between a patient and a health care provider.

2. In order for a competent agency to execute its powers, the Government of Georgia, by issuing an ordinance, may establish a service fee and service fee rates and determine the procedures for fee payment and fee refund, as well as the conditions for fee payment exemption.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 889 of 25 May 2001 - LHG I, No 15, 11.6.2001, Art. 50*

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 4816 of 25 May 2007 - LHG I, No 19, 1.6.2007, Art. 171*

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

*Law of Georgia No 5665 of 28 December 2011 - website, 11.1.2012*

**Article 16<sup>1</sup>**

1. If health care services are provided from the state/local/autonomous republic's budget under a programme of health care services/health insurance of the population, disputes arising between a patient and an insurance company, between an insurance company and a health care provider, and between a patient and a health care provider shall be adjudicated by the Medical Mediation Services Agency. At the same time, if the parties have concluded a contract or have agreed that the disputes are to be adjudicated by the Medical Mediation Services Agency, a decision of the Medical Mediation Services Agency shall be binding on the parties. A decision made by the Medical Mediation Services Agency may be appealed to a court as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.



2. If the parties have not concluded a contract or have not agreed that the disputes are to be adjudicated by the Medical Mediation Service Agency, as per the first paragraph of this article, the Medical Mediation Service shall adjudicate the disputes and develop recommendations. If a party/parties does not/do not agree with a recommendation developed by the Medical Mediation Services Agency, it/they shall have the right to apply to a court to adjudicate the dispute as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

3. If health care services are not provided from the state/local/autonomous republic's budget under a corresponding programme of health care services/health insurance of the population, disputes arising between a patient and an insurance company, between an insurance company and a health care services provider and between a patient and a health care services provider may be adjudicated by the Medical Mediation Services Agency, a court, or other body authorised by the legislation of Georgia, as agreed by the parties.

4. If a dispute is adjudicated by the Medical Mediation Services Agency under the third paragraph of this article, as agreed by the parties, the parties shall also make a preliminary agreement that the Medical Mediation Services Agency shall make a decision or develop a recommendation.

*Law of Georgia No 5665 of 28 December 2011 - website, 11.1.2012*

#### **Article 17**

Local self-government and government bodies shall ensure the health care of the population according to the legislation in force.

#### **Article 18**

Professional associations and other public organisations, as well as state and private medical institutions, shall take part in the health care system state management, within the limitations set by the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 19**

1. Health care services for a target group financed by the State shall be provided under the Law of Georgia on State Procurement or by means of a voucher.

2. Personal insurance for a target group financed by the State shall be provided by means of a voucher.

3. Health care services or personal insurance by means of a voucher, including cashing a voucher and cashing related transactions, shall not be deemed state procurement.

4. A voucher shall be personalised. Its owner may be a person or a group of persons (family, community, etc.). The rights of a minor shall be exercised under the procedure provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

5. According to the terms and conditions of the voucher, its owner shall have the right to freely choose a healthcare services provider or an insurance company.

6. Issuance of an insurance voucher to an insurance company shall be deemed to be the equivalent of an insurance contribution (premium) provided for by the Civil Code of Georgia.

7. The legislation of Georgia shall determine a reasonable term after the expiry of which, if an insurance company still has not been chosen, it may be chosen (identified) according to the voucher conditions.

8. A health care services provider or an insurance company that agrees to provide services under the voucher conditions may be chosen based on the expressed will of the health care services provider or the insurance company, according to the procedure provided for by the voucher conditions.

9. Owners of equal vouchers shall receive health care or insurance services on equal terms, without any discrimination.

10. A voucher that has been used shall be cashed by a respective budgetary organisation responsible for cashing vouchers by transferring money to organisations having submitted the vouchers.

11. Voucher conditions (including the procedures of declaration of intent by organisations receiving the voucher and of issuance of the voucher, the list of health care services, the price of the voucher, issues relating to the use and reimbursement of the voucher, etc.) shall be provided for by a law of Georgia and/or an ordinance of the Government of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 5129 of 29 June 2007 - LHG I, No 27, 17.7.2007, Art. 262*

#### **Article 20**

1. In the field of health care, the State shall ensure that official statistical data are correct, accurate, timely, and public, as required by legislation.

2. A legal entity engaged in medical practice shall be obliged to provide the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia with health care statistical information, according to the established procedure.



#### **Article 21**

A legal entity engaged in medical practice that takes part in a state health care programme shall be reimbursed for its work according to procedures for reimbursement and funding approved under the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 4816 of 25 May 2007 - LHG I, No 19, 1.6.2007, Art. 171*

#### **Article 22 - (Deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 4816 of 25 May 2007 - LHG I, No 19, 1.6.2007, Art. 171*

### **Chapter IV. Awarding of the State Certificate**

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

#### **Article 23**

1. The intent of awarding a state certificate shall be to protect the health of the population from activities of incompetent medical personnel.
2. By awarding a certificate, the State shall guarantee that the specialist holding it has the skills enabling him/her to perform independent medical practice according to the professional standards existing in the country.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

#### **Article 24**

1. Certification shall be the assessment of professional knowledge and practical skills of medical personnel in an individual medical speciality, which shall be performed by a unified state certification examination.
2. Certification shall be mandatory in order to obtain the right to engage in independent medical practice.

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

#### **Article 25 - (Deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

#### **Article 26**

Certification of medical personnel shall be conducted according to the Law of Georgia on Medical Activities and other legal acts and subordinate normative acts of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

*Law of Georgia No 5665 of 28 December 2011 - website, 11.1.2012*

### **Chapter V. Medical Activities**

#### **Article 27**





Health care workers shall be obliged to protect the health of individuals, families, and the society in general. Medical activities shall aim to protect, maintain, and restore the health of human beings and relieve their suffering.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

## **Article 28**

Only individuals with corresponding medical education, having obtained a certificate confirming their right to engage in independent medical practice in the respective speciality as provided for by the legislation of Georgia, shall have the right to engage in independent medical practice.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 889 of 25 May 2001 - LHG I, No 15, 11.6.2001, Art. 50*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

## **Article 29**

1. Citizens of Georgia, foreign nationals, or stateless persons who have received education or the right to engage in independent practice abroad may only conduct such practice in Georgia after their educational documents have been acknowledged and/or after they have obtained the right to engage in independent practice.

2. Educational documents of a foreign country shall be acknowledged according to the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

## **Article 30**

1. When carrying out medical activities, health care workers shall be guided by ethical values — the principles of recognition of human honour and dignity, fairness, and compassion, as well as the following norms of professional ethics:

- a) acting only in the patient's interests;
- b) not using their professional knowledge and experience against the principles of humanism;
- c) acting freely and independently when making professional decisions relating to the patient's interests, not acting with self-interest;
- d) caring about enhancing the prestige of their professional activity and treating colleagues with respect.

2. Medical institutions and health care workers shall be obliged to observe the following norms of conflict of interests:

- a) not acting with self-interest, or for the benefit of a third person, in their relations with patients when carrying out professional medical activities;
- b) not conspiring with a medical institution and/or a pharmaceutical company to use patients for personal commercial interests and to obtain a material benefit from such action;
- c) it shall be inadmissible to use forms of medical documentation with a differentiating sign of a pharmaceutical product when carrying out professional medical activities.

3. Violation of the norms of conflict of interests provided for in the second paragraph of this article shall entail responsibility of the medical institution and/or health care workers as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

4. All persons, regardless of their official or other privilege, shall be prohibited from demanding that the personnel employed in a medical institution act contrary to the principles defined in this Law and the norms of conflict of interests.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

## **Article 31**

The list of medical specialities whose acquisition shall be confirmed by a state educational certificate shall be drawn up jointly by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs, and the Ministry for Education of Georgia, and shall be approved by the Ministry for Education of Georgia.

## **Article 32**



1. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs shall determine:

- a) a list of medical and nursing specialties acquired through post-graduate professional training;
- b) a list of related medical specialties;
- c) a list of related nursing specialties;
- d) a list of other medical specialties;
- e) a list of medical specialties, which prohibits the subjects of independent medical practice suffering from certain diseases to work.

2. A doctor shall only have the right to be engaged in independent medical practice in the speciality indicated in the state certificate, except for cases when a patient requires emergency medical care and/or is in a life-threatening condition and it is impossible to find a doctor with the corresponding speciality.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

### **Article 33**

Only graduates of higher medical education institutions, having obtained a state certificate confirming their right to engage in independent medical practice as provided for in the legislation of Georgia, shall have the right to engage in independent medical practice.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

### **Article 34**

A physician's profession is essentially a free profession. No representative of the authorities or an individual may, under any circumstances, demand that a doctor act contrary to the principles or the ethical norms of medical activity set forth in this Law, irrespective of the official capacity and social status of the person making the demand. Any action preventing medical workers from fulfilling their professional duties shall entail responsibility envisaged by legislation.

### **Article 35**

Graduates of higher medical education institutions with state accreditation shall take an oath publicly and in the official language, before receiving a diploma. The Declaration of Geneva of the 2nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association of 1948 shall be used as the text of the oath.

### **Article 36**

A physician shall have the right to provide medical care for a patient if the patient or, if he/she is legally incapable, his/her relative or legal representative demands it or allows the physician to provide medical care to the patient, as well as in the case of implied consent, when a legally capable patient does not express objection in any form when being provided medical care.

### **Article 37**

A physician shall have the right to refuse to provide medical care to a patient only if:

- a) it is possible to ensure the continuity of medical care for the patient and the patient is not in a life-threatening condition, or the patient does not require emergency medical care;
- b) the physician's life may be exposed to a real danger during the provision of medical care.

### **Article 38**

1. A physician shall be obliged to provide medical care for a patient and ensure its continuity if:

- a) there is an officially concluded (written) or verbal agreement;
- b) there is a life-threatening condition, including a condition caused by an attempted suicide, or a patient requires emergency medical care at the physician's workplace.



2. In all other cases, the obligations relating to providing medical care, including the obligation to ensure its continuity, shall be imposed on a physician as soon as he/she starts providing medical care.

#### **Article 39**

It shall be an obligation of a physician outside of his/her workplace, as well as of any citizen, to provide emergency medical care, to the possible extent. At that time, it shall be inadmissible to demand any remuneration.

#### **Article 40**

A physician shall be obliged to determine the sequence of providing medical care only according to medical indications.

#### **Article 41**

A physician shall be obliged to provide a patient with full information about the patient's health status. In exceptional cases, the issue of informing a patient shall be regulated by the Law of Georgia on Medical Activities.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 42**

Medical workers and all employees of a medical institution shall be obliged to observe medical (physician-patient) confidentiality, except in cases when a relative or a legal representative of a deceased person, a court, or investigatory bodies demand disclosure of confidential information, or when this is necessary to ensure public safety or to protect other people's rights and freedoms.

#### **Article 43**

1. Physicians and other health care workers shall be obliged to:

- a) maintain records in medical documentation according to the established procedure;
- b) make a written description of medical care provided outside of their workplace and transfer the information to the body concerned.

2. The procedure for maintaining medical documentation shall be approved by the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 44**

A physician shall be obliged to provide medical care for a person in prison or in a place of detention only after obtaining his/her informed consent, except for an urgent and life-threatening condition when it is impossible to obtain consent due to the patient's severe condition. A physician shall also be obliged to refuse to carry out an intervention that contradicts medical and ethical norms.

*Law of Georgia No 2716 of 9 March 2010 - LHG I, No 12, 24.3.2010, Art. 53*

#### **Article 45**

Medical workers shall be obliged to transfer information, under the established procedure, to the institutions concerned:

- a) when a contagious disease is diagnosed or suspected;
- b) in case of physical, chemical, radiation, or thermal damage to a human body;
- c) about an unattended or unidentified dead body.

#### **Article 46**

If receiving the appropriate remuneration in a health care institution is not an object of an agreement between a doctor and a patient, the institution shall provide the physician with appropriate remuneration according to the labour agreement (contract).



#### **Article 47**

According to the state interests, benefits and additions to salary may be established for medical personnel working in individual medical specialities, as well as for those working in certain regions. The list of the above specialities and regions shall be approved by the Government of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 2088 of 9 June 1999 - LHG I, No 24(31), 26.6.1999, Art. 116*

*Law of Georgia No 691 of 13 December 2000 - LHG I, No 50, 27.12.2000, Art. 147*

*Law of Georgia No 1955 of 29 January 2003 - LHG I, No 5, 19.2.2003, Art. 31*

*Law of Georgia No 2476 of 23 December 2005 - LHG I, No 56, 28.12.2005, Art. 416*

*Law of Georgia No 1241 of 20 September 2013 - website, 8.10.2013*

#### **Article 48**

The State shall create conditions appropriate for medical workers to deepen their professional knowledge and, accordingly, enhance their professional status.

#### **Article 49**

Health care workers shall have the right to attend and take part in professional meetings and other events permitted by the legislation of Georgia, regardless of venue and source of funding.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 50**

A physician shall be held responsible for erroneous medical actions as provided for by legislation.

#### **Article 51**

A physician shall have the right to prescribe and/or administer any approved medicine and any proven treatment method, proceeding from the health care interests of the patient.

#### **Article 52**

Gene therapy shall only be allowed if:

- a) it aims to prevent, diagnose, and treat a fatal disease;
- b) there is no other simpler and safer method of treatment;
- c) a written informed consent by the patient or, if the patient is legally incapable, his/her relative or legal representative has been obtained;
- d) the contemporary level of science development makes it possible to ascertain that the treatment will not cause an undesirable change in the genome of the person's descendants.

### **Chapter VI. Medical Institutions**

#### **Article 53**

1. A medical institution shall be a legal person with an organisational-legal form permitted by the legislation of Georgia that carries out medical activities according to the established procedure. The share of a medical institution's financial resources obtained from medical activities shall constitute not less than 75%, whereas not less than 75% of the average annual value of the fixed assets on its balance sheet shall be allocated to fulfil the functions indicated in the second paragraph of this article.

<sup>1</sup>. One hundred per cent of the income received from providing health care services and other economic activities performed according to internal standards, compared to the previous year, shall remain at the disposal of the medical institution. As a rule, the head of the institution, in agreement with the supervisory board, shall distribute this sum, according to the economic classifier. At the same time, the payroll fund shall constitute not less than 30% of the income.



2. The functions of a medical institution shall be as follows:

- a) determining a patient's health status;
- b) prevention and/or treatment of diseases and/or rehabilitation and/or palliative care of patients;
- c) obstetric activities;
- d) pharmaceutical activities;
- e) (deleted);
- f) conducting pathological-anatomical examination and forensic-medical expert examination of a dead body;
- g) implementing epidemiological control measures.

3. Medical and pharmaceutical institutions shall be obliged to observe the standards, procedures, and norms laid down in the legislation regulating medical and pharmaceutical activities.

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 2527 of 18 July 2003 - LHG I, No 22, 8.8.2003, Art. 162*

*Law of Georgia No 3836 of 7 December 2006 - LHG I, No 48, 22.12.2006, Art. 317*

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 54**

1. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall issue a document certifying the respective right to carry out medical activities (a licence and/or a permit).

2. (Deleted).

3. The Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall approve the list of medical personnel who have the right to be employed in a medical institution and have the respective education.

*Law of Georgia No 889 of 25 May 2001 - LHG I, No 15, 11.6.2001, Art. 50*

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

#### **Article 55**

The procedure for revoking a licence/permit for a respective medical activity shall be provided for by the Law of Georgia on Licences and Permits.

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

#### **Article 56**

A medical institution may not perform medical activities requiring a licence and/or a permit under the legislation of Georgia without the respective licence and/or permit.

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

#### **Article 57**

1. A medical institution may be an entrepreneurial or non-entrepreneurial legal person.

2. An entrepreneurial medical institution shall carry out its activities according to the Law of Georgia on Entrepreneurs.

3. A non-entrepreneurial medical institution shall carry out its activities according to the legislation of Georgia.



#### **Article 58**

1. A medical institution shall enjoy professional and financial independence as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.
2. A medical institution may establish a fund for cases when a complaint is filed against its medical personnel for erroneous medical activity. The fund shall be established with contributions of the medical personnel and funds permitted by legislation.

#### **Article 59**

1. A medical institution shall carry out its activities according to its statute under the legislation of Georgia.
2. A medical institution shall determine the procedure of organisation of labour and the procedure, form, and amount of remuneration, within the limits of its income, as established by the legislation.
3. Medical personnel shall be paid on a piece-rate basis. The amount and terms of remuneration shall be determined by:
  - a) a standard of maximum workload in an individual speciality, which shall be approved by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia under the established procedure;
  - b) a labour agreement (contract) between a medical institution and an individual worker.
4. (Deleted).

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 60**

1. When health care services to be provided to a patient exceed the limits envisaged by a state medical programme, the medical institution and the patient shall, under the established procedure, conclude an agreement reflecting the conditions and amount of the medical services to be provided and the respective remuneration. If the patient is legally incapable, the agreement shall be concluded with his/her relative or legal representative.
2. During and after the provision of medical services, the parties indicated in the first paragraph of this article shall be obliged to accurately carry out the conditions of the agreement. If one of the parties refuses to carry out the conditions of the agreement, the other party shall have the right to apply to court.
3. If a legally capable patient or a relative, or legal representative of a legally incapable patient, refuses to conclude an agreement, which is confirmed by an act concluded under the established procedure, and the patient does not show any signs of a critical condition, the medical institution shall have the right to refuse to start treatment.
4. Health care in mountainous regions shall be free of charge and its provision shall be financed by the State. The State shall ensure the retention and development of medical institutions in mountainous regions. In parallel, private health care services and sale of medicines shall be permitted as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 2088 of 9 June 1999 - LHG I, No 24(31), 26.6.1999, Art. 116*

#### **Article 61**

The State shall, within the limits of available resources, ensure the technical equipment for and modernisation of the institutions dealing with health care information systems and health care statistics, health care information resource centres, and medical libraries.

#### **Article 62**

Commissions on medical ethics shall be created at medical institutions that shall ensure the protection of patient rights and the observance of norms of medical ethics; the grounds for creating the commissions shall be provided for in the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 63**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall exercise quality assurance of medical activities in all medical institutions as provided for by legislation.

#### **Article 63<sup>1</sup>**



1. Medical activities performed on an outpatient basis/at a day care inpatient facility involving high risk shall be regulated by the Technical Regulations of Medical Activities and shall be subject to mandatory notification to the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.
2. List of medical activities to be performed on an outpatient basis/at a day care inpatient facility involving high risk ('high-risk medical activities') shall be determined by an ordinance of the Government of Georgia.
3. The Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities shall be adopted by an ordinance of the Government. It shall include requirements relating to medical equipment and instruments, hygienic conditions, and maintenance of medical documentation.
4. Compliance with the Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities shall be checked by random control, according to the procedure approved by an order of the Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. Non-compliance with the Regulations shall entail responsibility as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.
5. Checking compliance with the Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities by random control shall be carried out only in relation to the activities referred to in the second paragraph of this article, that are subject to notification. At the same time, the Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities shall be made available for interested persons, as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.
6. High-risk medical activities shall be verified by random control once a year. In this case, Article 3(2) of the Law of Georgia on Control of Entrepreneurial Activity shall not apply.
7. If a medical activities/health care services provider performs an activity envisaged in a licence/permit, it shall have the right to perform an activity defined in the second paragraph of this article without notification, if the terms of its licence/permit include the requirements envisaged by the Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities and if this activity is performed at a single actual address. In this case, random control shall be carried out only according to the requirements of the Law of Georgia on Licences and Permits.
8. The mandatory notification form for providers of high-risk medical activities/health care services shall include the name of the medical activity (activities) provided for in the second paragraph of this article and the person's identification data, address, and contact information.
9. The mandatory notification form for providers of high-risk medical activities/health care services may be filed electronically.
10. The Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall approve the mandatory notification form and procedure for providers of high-risk medical activities/health care services. This procedure shall envisage a different period for mandatory notification for active providers of high-risk medical activities/health care services.

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

*Law of Georgia No 1776 of 13 December 2013 – web-site, 28.12.2013*

## **Chapter VII. Medicines and Pharmaceutical Activities**

### **Article 64**

The provision of high-quality, safe, and effective pharmaceutical products; the state requirements regarding the production, import, distribution, and sale of pharmaceutical products and the control over their compliance shall be regulated by the respective legislation.

*Law of Georgia No 2088 of 9 June 1999 - LHG I, No 24(31), 26.6.1999, Art. 116*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

## **Chapter VIII. Medical Technical Devices and Medical Technology**

### **Article 65 - (Deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

### **Article 66**

Design work, production, maintenance, and repair of medical technical devices shall be carried out under the procedure provided for by legislation.

### **Article 67**

1. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, together with the respective state bodies, shall develop and introduce the quality and



safety standards of medical technical devices and medical technologies.

2. The type of the means of measurement shall be approved, entered into the register, imported, and produced according to the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

## **Chapter IX. Psychiatric Assistance**

### **Article 68**

The State shall support the provision of medical and social assistance for persons with mental illness.

### **Article 69**

The protection of the rights and interests of persons with mental illness and the protection of society from socially dangerous actions of persons with mental illness, as well as the rights and obligations of psychiatric service provider workers and persons, who have direct contact with persons with mental illness, shall be regulated by the Law of Georgia on Psychiatric Assistance.

## **Chapter X. Sanitary and Hygiene Standardisation and Epidemiological Control**

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Article 70**

1. Ensuring environmental health shall be the State's obligation. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall develop and approve the sanitary and hygiene standards and epidemiological control measures.

2. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall approve the sanitary and hygiene procedures and standards for individual agencies.

3. The issues of ensuring environmental health of the population and respective surveillance shall be regulated by the legislation of Georgia.

4. Sanitary and hygiene standards and procedures and epidemiological control requirements currently in force in Georgia shall comply with international norms.

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Article 71**

1. The right of the population of Georgia to radiation safety shall be exercised through a complex of measures that include:

- a) requirements for radiation safety by natural and legal persons using ionising radiation sources;
- b) prevention of excessive doses of ionising radiation on a human organism and of environmental radioactive pollution.

2. The State shall be responsible for environmental radiation monitoring and the radiation safety of the population.

### **Article 72**

Compliance with sanitary and hygiene and sanitary anti-epidemic procedures and measures developed and approved to prevent the adverse effects of the environmental and other factors on the health of the population shall be mandatory for any natural and legal person in the country, regardless of their organisational-legal form and departmental subordination.

## **Chapter XI. Disease Control**

### **Article 73**





1. The control of communicable diseases (including those of zoonothroponotic and zoonotic nature), endemic diseases, and epidemics, as well as of particularly prevalent non-communicable diseases, shall be the prerogative of the state central and local government and self-government bodies.

2. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, together with the institutions of state governance concerned, shall develop programmes and carry out coordinated measures to protect people and animals from especially dangerous zoonothroponotic diseases and toxicoinfections.

#### **Article 74**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall compile a list of especially dangerous pathogens and develop measures for epidemiological study, treatment, and prevention of particularly prevalent communicable and non-communicable diseases, including endemic diseases.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 75**

The State, based on recommendations developed by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, shall manage a complex of measures of epidemiological control in the country:

- a) immune prevention and quarantine measures;
- b) proper treatment and preventitive measures for citizens with a high risk of developing communicable diseases;
- c) protecting various objects from being infected and neutralising infected objects;
- d) combating carriers in an anti-epidemic situation;
- e) taking measures necessary for epidemiological preparedness of medical workers.

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 76**

When it is necessary to examine citizens to confirm a well-grounded suspicion concerning the existence of an especially dangerous communicable disease, citizens shall be obliged to undergo all appropriate examinations. The dignity and the basic rights of citizens shall be protected during such examinations.

#### **Article 77**

Export and import of especially dangerous pathogens shall be regulated according to the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 78**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall develop and approve the Preventive Immunisation National Schedule and a state medical programme necessary for its implementation.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 79**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall compile a list of endemic diseases. It shall be the prerogative of the State to control these diseases, ensure their treatment in a medical institution, and provide adequate funding.

### **Chapter XII. Social Diseases and Diseases That Require Permanent Replacement Therapy**

#### **Article 80**



The State shall ensure taking measures to combat tuberculosis. It shall perform this activity by cooperating with private and non-governmental organisations. Combatting tuberculosis shall aim at curing individual patients, to achieve their physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation, and to decrease and eradicate the prevalence of this disease in the population.

#### **Article 81**

The State shall take measures necessary for the prevention, diagnostics, dispensary supervision, and treatment of enteric and parenteral hepatitis.

#### **Article 82**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall take measures necessary for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases in compliance with contemporary standards, taking into consideration the epidemiological situation, through providing health education to the population and raising public awareness. The State shall determine its policy towards prostitution and take the respective measures according to the situation existing in the country.

#### **Article 83**

The basic principles of measures against HIV infection/AIDS and the issues of testing natural persons for HIV infection and treatment and care of persons infected with HIV/ill with AIDS, as well as the rights and obligations of persons infected with HIV/ill with AIDS, and medical workers, shall be regulated by the Law of Georgia on HIV Infection/AIDS.

*Law of Georgia No 2043 of 17 November 2009 - LHG I, No 37, 30.11.2009, Art. 277*

#### **Article 84**

Intentional transmission of sexually transmitted diseases shall be punishable by law, under the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 85**

Within the limits of obligations it has undertaken, the State shall provide persons with diseases requiring permanent replacement therapy (*diabetes mellitus* and *diabetes insipidus*) with vital medications, emergency medical care relating to the disease, and physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation.

### **Chapter XIII. Public Health and Primary Health Care**

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 85<sup>1</sup>**

The State's obligations related to public health shall be reflected in the respective state and local programmes.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 85<sup>2</sup>**

To carry out measures of public health in the cities and regions of Georgia, according to the Organic Law of Georgia on Local Self-Government and Government, public health offices of cities and regions shall be established and shall operate under the methodological guidance of the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 85<sup>3</sup>**

The competence of the public health offices shall include:

- a) establishing a system of registration and notification of infectious and non-infectious diseases, analysing the data obtained, and forecasting;
- b) implementing epidemiological surveillance and control to identify and study the causes, transmission routes, and risk factors of diseases;



- c) providing health care offices and the population with appropriate information and preparing recommendations on causes of emergence, prevalence, and control of infectious diseases;
- d) planning measures to limit the prevalence of or to eradicate communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases;
- e) planning measures necessary to ensure safe blood provision;
- f) prevention of non-infectious diseases (cardiovascular diseases, oncological diseases, traumas, diseases caused by deficiency of iodine, other microelements and vitamins, etc.);
- g) contributing to healthy lifestyle practices promotion;
- h) contributing to environmental health promotion.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 86**

The State shall support measures for prevention of smoking of tobacco and excessive use of alcohol products and create mechanisms for their implementation, to protect the health of the population. Smoking of tobacco in public places and sale of tobacco and alcohol products to minors shall be regulated by the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 87**

Measures necessary to prevent misuse of permitted preparations and use of prohibited preparations shall include the creation of an appropriate legislative base, early identification of cases of use, treatment of users, raising public awareness of the issue, and implementation of prevention measures targeted at risk groups.

### **Chapter XIV. (Title deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 88**

Disease prevention and health promotion shall be a state priority; the State shall create preconditions for the participation of youth and non-governmental organisations, also public and private health care organisations in the promotion of healthy lifestyle practices, especially for minimizing the risk of developing diseases in educational and work institutions, and in leisure and entertainment establishments.

#### **Article 89**

The State shall determine strategic directions, develop appropriate programmes for disease prevention and for contributing to the health care of the population, especially among children and adolescents, and shall ensure their implementation.

#### **Article 89<sup>1</sup>**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs shall develop the legislative base and the procedure of organisational-legal arrangement necessary for developing the system of primary health care, including family medicine.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

### **Chapter XV. Protection of Citizens' Health at the Time of Emergencies - Natural and Man-made Disasters**

#### **Article 90**

The State shall be responsible for the protection of citizens' health and safety at the time of natural and man-made disasters. The bodies of health care management, medical institutions, and respective professional associations shall take part in the development and implementation of disaster medical preparedness and response.



#### **Article 91**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, together with the state government bodies concerned, shall, under the established procedure, accumulate a stock of first-degree material values of mobilisation reserves necessary for natural and man-made disaster medical preparedness and response and ensure its completeness, readiness for use, and periodic replenishment.

#### **Article 92**

Medical institutions shall have emergency response plans, agreed upon with the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, which shall be in line with the National Response Plan.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article - 93**

The expenses of medical assistance to those who suffer injuries or become ill as a result of an emergency situation or an epidemic outbreak shall be borne by the State.

*Law of Georgia No 974 of 20 June 2001 - LHG I, No 20, 3.7.2001, Art. 73*

### **Chapter XVI. Occupational Diseases**

#### **Article 94**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall consider and approve a list of occupational diseases and a list of occupations that are associated with the risk of developing an occupational disease.

#### **Article 95**

An employer shall be obliged to provide an employee with comprehensive information concerning the risk of developing an occupational disease, the existence of harmful factors, and the preventive measures necessary to avoid their effects in the enterprise or establishment.

### **Chapter XVII. Medical Education**

#### **Article 96**

Teaching the speciality of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other medical specialities in appropriately authorised medical educational institutions shall have the form of higher education and secondary vocational education, according to state educational standards.

#### **Article 97**

1. After receiving higher medical education, the upgrading of a physician's professional qualifications shall involve post-graduate professional education and training and continuous professional development.

2. The aim of post-graduate professional education and training shall be to master a medical speciality, while the aim of continuous professional development shall be to maintain a physician's professional competence in his/her medical speciality, so that his/her theoretical knowledge and practical skills are up to date with contemporary medicine achievements and technologies.

*Law of Georgia No 1435 of 13 May 2005 - LHG I, No 25, 2.6.2005, Art. 163*

#### **Article 98**

1. Higher medical education shall be received on the basis of one-cycle studies, according to a special higher education programme.

2. A graduate of a higher medical education institution holding state accreditation shall have the right to:

a) take a course of post-graduate professional education and training, and obtain the right to engage in independent medical practice, after passing the state certification examination;



b) carry out research and teaching activities in theoretical fields of medicine or other fields of health care that do not involve independent medical practice;

c) work as a junior physician.

*Law of Georgia No 1435 of 13 May 2005 - LHG I, No 25, 2.6.2005, Art. 163*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 99**

Issues of physician post-graduate professional education and training shall be defined by the Law of Georgia on Medical Activity and other legislative acts.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 1435 of 13 May 2005 - LHG I, No 25, 2.6.2005, Art. 163*

#### **Article 100**

The components and respective forms of physician's continuous professional development, and the criteria and procedure of assessing a physician's participation shall be provided for by the Law of Georgia on Medical Activities and other legislative acts.

*Law of Georgia No 1435 of 13 May 2005 - LHG I, No 25, 2.6.2005, Art. 163*

#### **Article 101**

Medical and pharmacy colleges and secondary vocational education institutions shall train professionals according to programmes developed by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry for Education of Georgia and approved by the Ministry for Education of Georgia.

#### **Article 102 - (Deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Chapter XVIII. Responsibility of Health Care Personnel and Medical Institutions**

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 103**

Responsibility for the deterioration of a patient's physical or mental status, a patient's death, or moral or material damage inflicted to a patient that is caused by an action or inaction of health care personnel shall be determined by the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

#### **Article 104**

A patient or his/her relative or legal representative shall have the right to file a complaint against a physician, a nurse, other medical worker, or a medical institution with the administration of the medical institution, a health care management body, a court, or other dispute adjudicating body.

### **Chapter XIX. Biomedical Research**

#### **Article 105**

At the time of biomedical research, the human rights of a person, as an object of biomedical research, and the principles of humane treatment of laboratory animals shall be observed, according to the legislation of Georgia and the international agreements and treaties of Georgia.



#### **Article 106**

Any and all biomedical research shall conform to the norms of scientific research accepted in Georgia based on utmost accuracy in conducting laboratory trials and experiments on animals and comprehensive knowledge of the relevant literature. The goals, objectives, methods, expected results, and research risk of a biomedical study conducted on human beings or animals shall be set forth in the research plan. Any and all research shall be conducted in the framework of this plan.

#### **Article 107**

The research plan shall be discussed and reviewed by a special commission independent of the researcher and the funding source and by a commission on medical ethics.

#### **Article 108**

Before starting a planned biomedical research involving a human being, it shall be necessary to weigh the expected benefits against the potential risks. At the time of a biomedical research, the interests and well-being of a human being, as an object of research, shall be more important than the interests of science and society. The research risk shall be reduced to minimum. It shall not exceed the expected benefit for the research object and/or the significance of the research goals.

#### **Article 109**

A person, as an object of biomedical research, shall be given comprehensive information in advance about the goals, methods, expected results, and the research risk of a study, as well as on the risk-related possible discomfort. Biomedical research may not be conducted without written informed consent of the person participating in it. A person, as an object of biomedical research, must be informed of his/her right to refuse to participate in the research at any stage of the research, regardless of his/her advance consent.

#### **Article 110**

A legally incapable person may be an object of biomedical research under the conditions defined in Article 108, unless he/she expresses any objection in any manner, and if the informed consent of his/her relative or legal representatives has been obtained. If a legally incapable person is capable of understanding, it shall also be necessary to obtain his/her consent.

#### **Article 111**

The rights of legally incapable persons and pregnant and nursing women shall be protected at the time of research. A person in these categories may only be an object of biomedical research if it is expected that the research results will bring a direct and significant benefit to this person or it is expected that the results of the study, although not directly beneficial to the health of this person, will benefit other persons of the same category, and if it is impossible to get similar scientific results in a study of persons of other categories.

#### **Article 112**

Persons in a prison or a place of detention shall enjoy all the rights under Articles 108 and 109 of this Law. Participation of these persons in a biomedical research shall be admissible if it is expected that the research results will bring a direct and significant benefit to their health.

*Law of Georgia No 2716 of 9 March 2010 - LHG I, No 12, 24.3.2010, Art. 53*

#### **Article - 112<sup>1</sup>**

1. Educational and research institutions, which carry out medical, educational, and research programmes, as well as medical and expert examination institutions, may use an unattended dead body and/or an unidentified dead body or its anatomical structures for educational and/or research purposes if:

- a) it has been impossible to find (identify) the deceased person's relative or legal representative, a person authorised to receive the inheritance, or a person related to him/her in any other way within the term after pronouncing the person's death, as determined by the legislation of Georgia;
- b) the person did not object, when alive, to the use of his/her body or anatomical structures of his/her body after his/her death for the purposes envisaged in this article;
- c) all other conditions envisaged by the legislation of Georgia are observed.

2. An unattended dead body and/or an unidentified dead body or its anatomical structures may not be used for educational and/or research purposes if there are grounds to assume that their use in this manner would offend the deceased person's religious beliefs.

3. Educational, research, or medical institutions shall be obliged to ensure that the dead body is buried under the established procedure after it has been



used for educational and/or research purposes.

*Law of Georgia No 4921 of 8 June 2007 - LHG I, No 22, 19.6.2007, Art. 202*

### **Article 113**

When conducting biomedical research on animals, a researcher shall be obliged to observe all the existing principles of humane treatment of experimental animals.

## **Chapter XX. Removal and Use of Human Organs, Parts of Organs, and Tissues**

### **Article 114**

Giving organs, parts of organs, or tissues ('organ') by a human being during his/her lifetime or after his/her death for the purpose of their transplantation into or treatment of another human being, research, and teaching shall be a voluntary act.

### **Article 115**

All citizens of Georgia shall have the right to make a written statement containing consent or refusal to give an organ during their life or after death. A statement confirming consent shall only be valid if the person making the statement is legally capable. It shall be inadmissible to exert any type of influence on a person to compel him/her to make such a decision.

### **Article 116**

It shall be admissible to use an organ of a living donor for treatment of and/or transplantation into another human being only if the living donor is:

- a) the recipient's genetic relative;
- b) the recipient's spouse, if not less than one year has passed since registration of the marriage;
- c) a child, mother, (mother-in-law) father, (father-in-law), grandchild, grandmother, grandfather, sister (sister-in-law), brother (brother-in-law), child's spouse (daughter-in-law, son-in-law), grandchild's spouse (grand-daughter-in-law, grand-son-in-law), sister's spouse (brother-in-law), brother's spouse (sister-in-law) of the recipient, if not less than two years have passed since the registration of the marriage.

Note: All potential living donors defined in sub-paragraph (c) of this article, shall have the right, if needed, to have the organ of the relative, to whom he/she has the right to be a donor, transplanted into his/her body.

*Law of Georgia No 3113 of 18 June 2010 - LHG I, No 31, 5.7.2010, Art. 196*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

*Law of Georgia No 2152 of 21 March 2014 – web-site, 4.4.2014*

### **Article 117**

1. It shall be admissible to remove the bone marrow from an underage living donor (except a child) to transplant into another human being only if:

- a) the removal of the bone marrow does not affect the donor's health, which shall be confirmed independently by two appropriately certified physicians;
- b) the bone marrow is intended to be transplanted into the donor's first- or second-degree genetic relative who has a life-threatening health condition and there is no other means of treatment.

2. In the cases mentioned in paragraphs 1(a) and (b) of this article, it shall be necessary to obtain the informed consent of the underage person, his/her parents (parent), and in the case of an underage person outside of parental care - his/her legal representative. This consent shall be confirmed by agencies of guardianship and trusteeship.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Article 118**

If a deceased person is a suitable candidate for removal of an organ according to accepted medical standards and, at the same time, he/she has not expressed either his/her consent or refusal to give an organ when he/she was alive and there are no grounds to assume that giving an organ contradicts



his/her religious beliefs or ethical principles, it shall only be admissible to remove an organ with the consent of a relative or legal representative of the deceased person. If it has been impossible to find a relative or a legal representative, it shall not be admissible to remove organs from the dead body.

#### **Article 119**

It shall only be admissible to remove an organ of a deceased person after two or more physicians, none of whom takes part in the transplantation process, independently from each other, pronounce the person dead. The fact of death shall be established based on the methods and criteria of the contemporary level of medicine that are in compliance with ethical requirements and professional standards approved by physician professional associations and health care bodies of Georgia.

#### **Article 120**

An organ intended to be transplanted into a recipient shall be selected based on the principle of anonymity and only according to medical indications, regardless of any other privileges.

#### **Article 121**

It shall be prohibited to trade organs intended for transplantation or treatment, to purchase them abroad, or export them in violation of the legislation currently in force in Georgia and/or international agreements. Medical personnel shall be prohibited from taking part in removal and use of an organ, if they know or have a well-founded suspicion that the above organ has been obtained based on an illegal transaction.

#### **Article 122**

It shall be prohibited to advertise the demand for an organ, as well as to advertise it with the aim of receiving or giving remuneration. Any and all persons and institutions shall be prohibited from receiving remuneration for taking part in activities related to transplantation, except for a substantiated sum determined as remuneration for provided medical assistance.

### **Chapter XXI. Donation of Blood or Blood Components**

#### **Article 123**

1. Giving blood and blood components by a donor for the purposes of treatment, diagnostics, and scientific research shall be a voluntary act.
2. Blood and blood components may only be taken from a donor after obtaining informed consent and performing any necessary preliminary medical examination.

#### **Article 124**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall determine indications against being a donor.

#### **Article 125**

1. Blood and blood components may be taken from a donor aged between 18 and 65 years of age.
2. Blood and blood components may be taken from an underage person (except a child) only in an emergency situation and when it is impossible to provide alternative treatment. In this case, it shall be necessary to obtain informed consent from the underage person or his/her parents (parent) or legal representative.

#### **Article 126**

Blood and blood components shall be prepared, kept, and used in compliance with internationally recognised requirements, under the procedure developed by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

#### **Article 127**

Blood and its components shall be prepared, processed, and kept by a medical institution authorised appropriately by the Law of Georgia on Licences and Permits.





#### **Article 128**

The issues of protection of donor health shall be defined by the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 129**

1. It shall be prohibited to take blood and blood components from a person in prison or in a place of detention.

2. It shall be prohibited to trade blood and its components for profit, to purchase them abroad, or to export them in violation of the legislation of Georgia and/or international agreements.

*Law of Georgia No 2716 of 9 March 2010 - LHG I, No 12, 24.3.2010, Art. 53*

#### **Article 130**

Other issues of blood and blood components donorship shall be regulated by the Law of Georgia on Donorship of Blood and Its Components.

### **Chapter XXII. Safe Motherhood and Child Health Care**

#### **Article 131**

1. The types of labour activities that pregnant women and nursing mothers may not engage in, also the terms of termination of labour activities before and after childbirth, shall be determined by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

2. During the mentioned periods remuneration shall be paid under the established procedure.

#### **Article 132**

1. The State shall contribute to safe motherhood, legal provisions for creating and funding conditions necessary for child care in enterprises and establishments, and the formation of public opinion on the necessity of protecting the rights of mothers and children.

2. Medical counselling of pregnant women and delivery and post-natal medical care shall be ensured according to the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 5129 of 29 June 2007 - LHG I, No 27, 17.7.2007, Art. 262*

#### **Article 133**

1. Management of medical aspects of decreasing child mortality and morbidity, as well as provision of the highest possible level of medical care, including, first of all, primary health care, for children, shall be a priority objective of the health care system.

2. The State shall contribute to providing newborn babies, infants, and children of other age groups with safe and adequate food, supporting natural breastfeeding, and observing the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

#### **Article 134**

The State shall ensure that hereditary and congenital diseases among newborn babies are identified according to priorities determined in advance.

#### **Article 135**

The State shall ensure medical care in institutions for orphans, children outside of parental care, and children with physical and mental defects.

### **Chapter XXIII. Family Planning**



#### **Article 136**

All citizens of Georgia shall have the right to independently determine the number of children they have and the time of their birth. The State shall ensure human rights in the field of reproduction as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 137**

The State shall provide voluntary medical-genetic counselling free of charge to couples who plan to get married, as well as those who want to have children.

#### **Article 138**

Contraceptives shall be produced, imported, and distributed as provided for by the legislation of Georgia.

#### **Article 139**

1. Protection of women's health by reducing the number of abortions shall be a priority objective of the State.
2. Voluntary termination of pregnancy shall only be permitted at a medical institution holding the appropriate authorisation, and shall be performed by a certified physician, if:
  - a) the duration of pregnancy does not exceed 12 weeks;
  - b) the pregnant woman has been interviewed in the medical institution and a five-day term for making a decision has passed from the interview to performing medical intervention for induced abortion. During the interview, the priority shall be given to the protection of the life of the foetus. Making a decision about the abortion shall be the prerogative of the woman. The procedure for the pre-abortion counselling by/preliminary interview with the physician shall be determined by an order of the Minister for Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

*Law of Georgia No 2646 of 1 August 2014 – website, 8.8.2014*

#### **Article 140**

1. Advertising for abortions shall be prohibited.
2. If the term of pregnancy exceeds 12 weeks, an abortion shall be allowed only according to medical conditions (therapeutic abortion) and for social reasons. The Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall determine the list of such medical conditions and social reasons by an order.

*Law of Georgia No 2646 of 1 August 2014 – website, 8.8.2014*

#### **Article 141**

Fertilisation with a donor's sperm shall be allowed:

- a) due to infertility, if there is a risk of transmitting a genetic disease from the husband to the child, or for fertilisation of a single woman, if a written consent of the infertile couple or the single woman has been obtained. If a child is born, the infertile couple or the single woman shall be deemed as parents, with the responsibilities and authorities proceeding from this fact. The donor shall not have the right to be recognised as the father of the born child;
- b) (Deleted).

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

#### **Article 142**

1. Human cloning using genetic engineering methods shall be prohibited.
2. The State shall exercise control over the research in the field of genetic engineering as provided for by law.

#### **Article 143**

1. In vitro fertilisation shall be allowed:



a) to treat infertility, if there is a risk of transmitting a genetic disease from the wife or the husband to the child, using the gametes or embryo of the couple or a donor, if a written consent of the couple has been obtained;

b) if a woman does not have an uterus, by transferring the embryo obtained as a result of fertilisation to the uterus of another woman ('surrogate mother') and growing it there; obtaining a written consent of the couple shall be obligatory.

2. If a child is born, the couple shall be deemed as parents, with the responsibilities and authorities proceeding from this fact; the donor or the 'surrogate mother' shall not have the right to be recognised as a parent of the born child.

#### **Article 144**

It shall be possible to use male and female gametes or embryos that have been conserved by freezing for the purpose of artificial fertilisation. The time of conservation shall be determined according to the couple's will, under the established procedure.

#### **Article 145**

Applying voluntary surgical contraception - sterilisation shall be permitted:

a) (deleted);

a<sup>1</sup>) only at an institution holding the appropriate permit, and shall be performed by a certified physician;

b) if there is the patient's written request

c) if the physician has conducted a preliminary interview with the patient and a one-month term for making a decision before sterilisation has passed after the interview;

d) if the patient meets the criteria defined by the legislation of Georgia.

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Chapter XXIV. Critical Condition, Death, and Euthanasia**

#### **Article 146**

A patient who is in a critical condition and/or in a terminal stage or his/her relative or legal representative shall have the right to receive full information about the patient's health status and to make a decision on medical intervention.

#### **Article 147**

Treatment and palliative care of a patient in a terminal stage and care of a deceased person shall be carried out with respect to his/her honour and dignity. A deceased person shall be taken care of according to the will of the person expressed when he/she was alive or according to the will of his/her relative or legal representative.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

#### **Article 148**

1. A legally capable patient who is in a terminal stage and is able to make a conscious decision shall have the right to refuse to receive resuscitative, life-saving, or palliative treatment and/or palliative care.

2. If a patient in a terminal stage is unconscious, his/her relative or legal representative shall have the right to refuse to provide him/her with resuscitative, life-saving, or palliative treatment and/or palliative care, in order to protect the dignity of the dying person and taking into consideration his/her (the patient's) personal views.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

#### **Article 149**

An unconscious patient shall be given appropriate treatment, unless the patient refused to receive resuscitative, life-saving, or palliative treatment



and/or palliative care in advance, when he/she was able to make a conscious decision.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*

#### **Article 150**

In case of persistent vegetative state, a patient shall be provided with treatment according to the procedures defined by the insurance programme.

#### **Article 151**

Medical personnel, as well as any and all other persons, shall be prohibited from carrying out or taking part in euthanasia.

#### **Article 152**

Pronouncement of a patient's death and issuance of a certificate on the latter shall be carried out according to the criteria and procedure approved by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. Medical documentation of a deceased person shall constitute medical (physician-patient) confidentiality, except in cases envisaged by Article 42 of this Law. The documentation shall be kept for the duration determined by the legislation.

#### **Article 153**

An autopsy shall be carried out by an appropriately certified physician in a medical institution holding licence for the activity. An autopsy shall be necessary if there is suspicion that death was caused by an especially dangerous infection. In all other cases, an autopsy shall be performed taking into consideration religious or other motives, as well as the will of the deceased person that was expressed when he/she was alive, or with the consent of his/her relative or legal representative.

*Law of Georgia No 2013 of 28 May 1999 - LHG I, No 20(27), 9.6.1999, Art. 87*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Chapter XXIV<sup>1</sup>. Medical Expert Examination**

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 153<sup>1</sup>**

The issues of medical social expert examination shall be regulated by the Law of Georgia on Medical Social Expert Examination.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

#### **Article 153<sup>2</sup>**

1. A forensic-medical examination and a forensic-psychiatric examination may only be conducted by an appropriately certified physician in a medical institution authorised by the Law of Georgia on Licences and Permits.

2. The procedures of forensic-medical examination and forensic-psychiatric examination and the procedure of activity of the medical personnel of the Centre for Medical Examination shall be defined by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 4133 of 17 December 2010 - LHG I, No 76, 29.12.2010, Art. 509*

### **Chapter XXV. Transitional Provisions**

#### **Article 154**

1. Medical personnel with a medical education shall be prohibited from engaging in independent medical and pharmacy practice without a state certificate of a specialist as of 1 June 2001. The schedule and terms of examinations by individual specialities shall be determined by the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.



2. Persons who apply to the Certification Council before 1 June 2001, but are not invited to take the certification examination, shall be given the right to engage in independent medical and pharmacy practice till 1 September 2001.

3. Medical personnel with non-medical education shall be prohibited from engaging in independent medical practice without a state certificate of a specialist as from 1 January 2002.

4. (Deleted).

5. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs shall, within six months after the date that this Law takes effect, develop and approve the following normative acts:

a) a passport of medical and pharmaceutical institutions - a document reflecting the number of personnel, the volume of technical equipment, and the amount of work to be done;

b) (deleted);

c) (deleted);

d) (deleted);

e) (deleted);

f) (deleted);

g) the procedures for conducting an expert examination on a temporary disability and for issuing a medical sick-leave certificate;

h) the procedures for conducting a forensic-medical examination and a forensic-psychiatric examination;

i) the procedure of activity of medical personnel engaged in conducting forensic-medical examination;

j) (deleted).

6. (Deleted).

7. The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall develop and approve, by 1 December 2010, the form and procedure of mandatory notification and the procedure of maintaining a registry for providers of high-risk medical activities/services to be carried out at an out-patient/in-patient day care facility.

8. The Government of Georgia shall, by 1 December 2010, ensure the adoption of the Technical Regulations of High-Risk Medical Activities.

*Law of Georgia No 91 of 24 December 1999 - LHG I, No 52(59), 31.12.1999, Art. 253*

*Law of Georgia No 162 of 24 February 2000 - LHG I, No 8, 15.3.2000, Art. 14*

*Law of Georgia No 889 of 25 May 2001 - LHG I, No 15, 11.6.2001, Art. 50*

*Law of Georgia No 1768 of 22 November 2002 - LHG I, No 31, 10.12.2002, Art. 144*

*Law of Georgia No 2527 of 18 July 2003 - LHG I, No 22, 8.8.2003, Art. 162*

*Law of Georgia No 3836 of 7 December 2006 - LHG I, No 48, 22.12.2006, Art. 317*

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

*Law of Georgia No 3553 of 21 July 2010 - LHG I, No 46, 4.8.2010, Art. 282*

#### **Article 154<sup>1</sup> (Deleted)**

*Law of Georgia No 691 of 13 December 2000 - LHG I, No 50, 27.12.2000, Art. 147*

*Law of Georgia No 1296 of 15 February 2002 - LHG I, No 4, 5.3.2002, Art. 24*

*Law of Georgia No 1955 of 29 January 2003 - LHG I, No 5, 19.2.2003, Art. 31*

*Law of Georgia No 2476 of 23 December 2005 - LHG I, No 56, 28.12.2005, Art. 416*

#### **Article 154<sup>2</sup>**

The Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia shall, by 1 October 2007, develop and approve the Instructions on Providing Persons Suffering from Chronic Incurable Diseases with Palliative Care.

*Law of Georgia No 4719 of 8 May 2007 - LHG I, No 18, 22.5.2007, Art. 149*



## Chapter XXVI. Final Provisions

### Article 155

This Law shall enter into force upon its promulgation.

### Article 155<sup>1</sup>

The Law of Georgia on Medical Insurance of 18 April 1997 (The Gazette of the Parliament, No 17-18, 9 May 1997, p. 55) shall be deemed null and void as from 1 July 2007.

*Law of Georgia No 5129 of 29 June 2007 - LHG I, No 27, 17.7.2007, Art. 262*

### Article 155<sup>2</sup>

The Law of Georgia on Licensing of Medical and Pharmaceutical Activities of 8 May 2003 (The Legislative Herald of Georgia, No 14, 3.6.2003, Art. 96) shall be deemed null and void as from 1 May 2008.

*Law of Georgia No 6000 of 21 March 2008 - LHG I, No 9, 4.4.2008, Art. 75*

President of Georgia

Eduard Shevardnadze

Tbilisi,

10 December 1997

No 1139-IS

