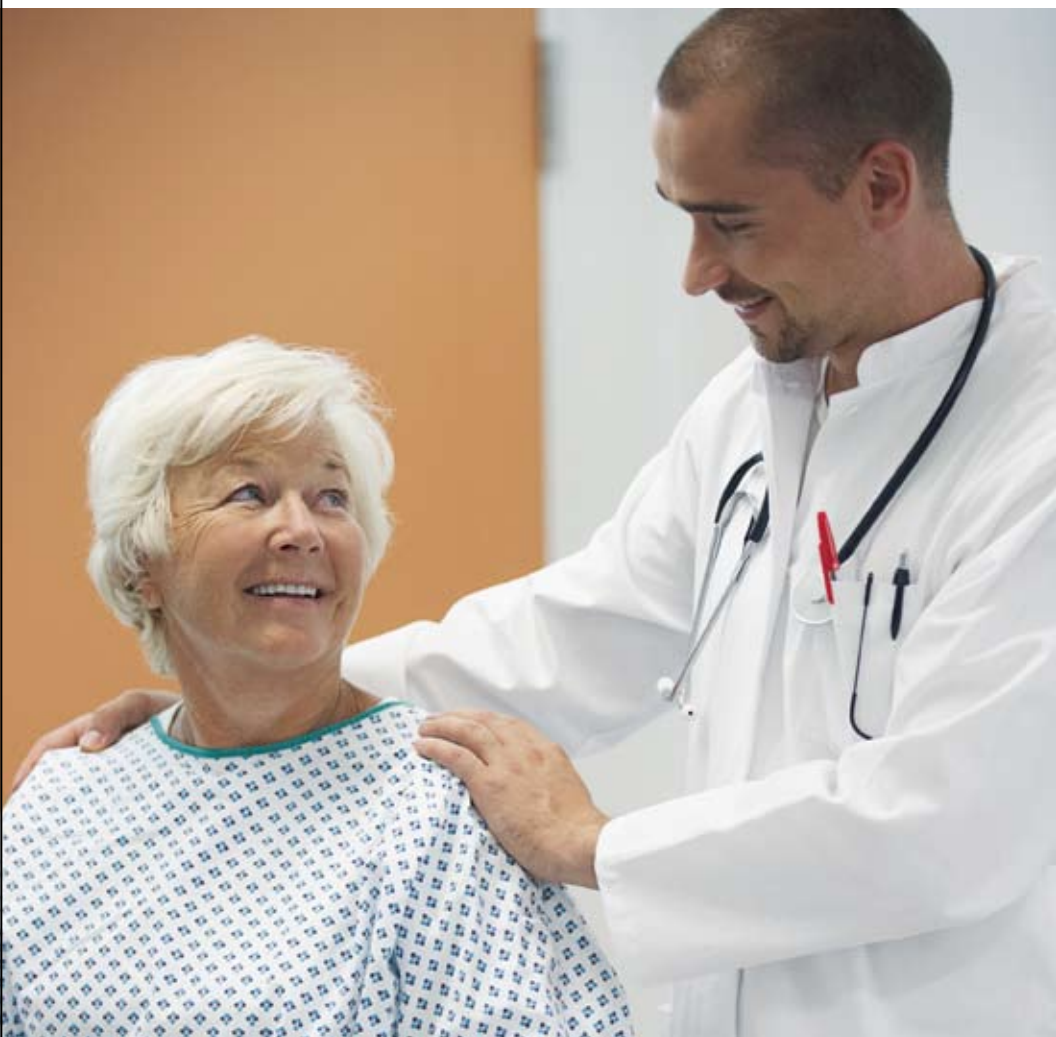


2007 Experience and Outcomes Report

Delivering on our commitment to
high quality gastrointestinal care



GI | SPECIALISTS
OF GEORGIA

Welcome to GI Specialists of Georgia



Gastrointestinal Specialists of Georgia is pleased to publish the first edition of our Experience and Outcomes Report, which highlights the clinical performance of our practice along with our proven commitment to quality and service. GI Specialists of Georgia is the result of the 2007 merger of Northwest Georgia Gastrointestinal Associates and Digestive Care Associates, so despite the new name we have a long history of serving the community of northwest Georgia.

Our practice includes 21 board certified gastroenterologists, seven nurse practitioners and a dedicated support staff. We offer a rare combination of thirty years experience in gastroenterology and a commitment to using the newest technologies and procedures. At GI Specialists of Georgia, we're dedicated to the wellbeing and care of our patients.

We see patients at our eight locations in Austell, Marietta, Douglasville, Hiram, Lithia Springs, Villa Rica and Woodstock, and our physicians are on staff at the region's top healthcare institutions, including Wellstar Cobb, Wellstar Kennestone, Wellstar Douglas and Wellstar Paulding hospitals. Each year, our physicians see approximately 30,000 additional patients in hospital consults and hospital follow-up visits.

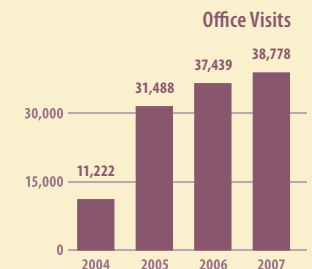




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A staff directory is provided on the inside back cover.

Our Mission and Values

Gastrointestinal Specialists of Georgia’s mission is to provide the highest quality care and service to our community.

We will successfully accomplish this by:

- Adhering to the highest professional and ethical standards in both service and conduct,
- Exceeding expectations of our patients and referring physicians,
- Being at the forefront of our field,
- Providing an environment that encourages professional growth, recognizes and rewards extraordinary effort and offers challenging careers to our staff and physicians.

Ethical conduct Quality
Respect
 Leadership Balance
 Diversity Inclusiveness

Commitment to Quality

At GI Specialists of Georgia, patient satisfaction and procedural excellence are always our focus and we take pride in finding new and innovative ways of improving care while maintaining our leadership in gastroenterology. We evaluate our success by tracking several quality indicators that measure performance and outcomes and comparing them against national benchmarks. We also have on staff a patient advocate whose role is to immediately respond to any issue raised by our patients.

Patient Survey

As part of our commitment to continuous quality assurance, we have implemented patient surveys. At every location, we ask patients to complete the survey, which asks about wait times, staff courtesy, physician skill and thoroughness, and the educational knowledge of diagnosis and next procedural steps. We always strive to reach the highest level of satisfaction with our patients. The following tracks the results over the last three years.

Patient Satisfaction Survey Results (%)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Physician Office	92.0	93.0	95.0	98.6
Registration/Business Office	97.7	96.0	95.0	98.2
Pre-Procedure	98.5	98.9	98.0	99.2
Intra-procedure	96.2	97.8	99.0	99.0
Post Procedure Recovery	98.0	99.0	98.0	98.7
Facility	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.3
Summary	97.0	97.3	97.3	98.7



Cutting Edge Endoscopic Technology

At GI Specialists of Georgia, we perform a wide range of complex procedures – ranging from colonoscopies to endoscopic ultrasounds – using the latest diagnostic technologies. One of our premiere technologies is high definition endoscopy combined with Narrow Band Imaging™, which uses blue light for better visualization of the intestine surface. Compared to conventional systems, Narrow Band Imaging™ provides physicians with sharper images and better contrast, helping them better observe lesions in the esophagus, stomach and colon. Not only does it provide more accurate diagnoses, but it can also shorten the procedure time for the patient.

Quality and Outcome Measures



2007 Top Diagnosed Diseases

In 2007, these top diagnoses accounted for 95% of all GI Specialists of Georgia patient diagnoses.

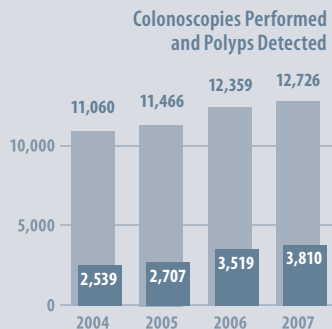
Esophagitis/Reflux	7,591
Abdominal Pain	7,123
Constipation	6,501
Gastritis	6,051
Diverticular Disease	5,826
Dysphagia	4,923
Diarrhea	4,620
Colon Polyps	4,426
GI Bleeding	3,986
Abnormal Liver Function Test	3,144
Abnormal Liver findings	2,496
Hepatitis C	1,957
Cirrhosis	1,891
Anemia	1,680
Colitis (Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis)	1,422
Pancreatic Disorders	615
Fatty Liver	590
Gallbladder Disease	519
Hepatitis Autoimmune, A, B, other	347
Hemachromatosis	41



Colonoscopy

The colonoscopy is the “Gold Standard” for colon cancer and polyp detection which allows a physician to exam the intestine by inserting a colonoscope into the rectum and gently advancing it through the large intestine. The intention is to identify inflamed tissue and neoplasms, as well as bleeding in the colon and rectum. It is primarily used to find and remove precancerous polyps in order to reduce the risk of colon cancer.

The colonoscopy is the most common gastrointestinal procedure performed by GI Specialists of Georgia. Our physicians, who perform thousands of colonoscopies each year, are experienced in performing the procedure and understand the risks associated with it. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our patients, as well as the successful outcome of each procedure we perform.



Quality Outcome Measurements

We strive to meet all colonoscopy quality measurements as established by our professional societies: AGA, ASGE and ACG.

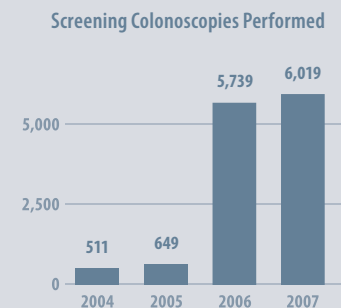
Cecal withdrawal time. This measurement indicates that a longer withdrawal time correlates to higher detection rate of neoplasms or polyps. Our withdrawal time is 7.26 minutes, compared to the national standard of 6.2 minutes.

Polyp detection rates. The most important aspect of the colonoscopy is to locate and remove precancerous polyps, thereby reducing the patient’s risk of developing cancer. In 2007, our average polyp detection rate was 25% compared to the national standard of 24%.

Average completion rate. Colonoscopies are sometimes not completed due to poor preparations by the patient or technical limitations. In 2007 we achieved a 97% average completion rate, which is notably higher than the national average of 93%.

Open Access Screening

GI Specialists of Georgia offers open access screening colonoscopies, which allows healthy asymptomatic patients the option to schedule their procedure without a preliminary office visit. By increasing the number of patients who can receive colonoscopies, we are increasing the chances of early detection of precancerous polyps and colon cancer.

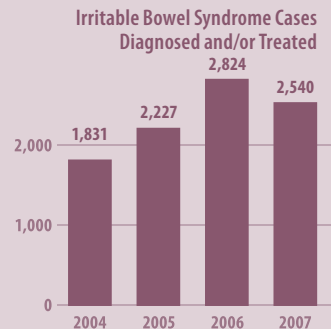




Intestinal Diseases

The following are some of the intestinal disorders we treat:

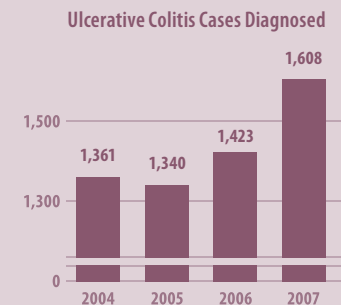
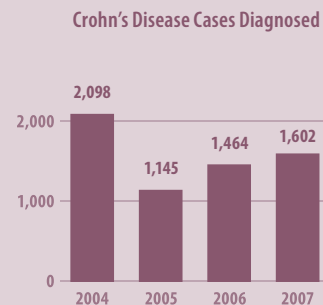
Irritable Bowel syndrome (IBS). A condition in which abdominal pain, bloating, gas, diarrhea and constipation contribute to changes in bowel function. Our physicians' treatment for patients with IBS includes the most advanced therapies to effectively deal with the symptoms.

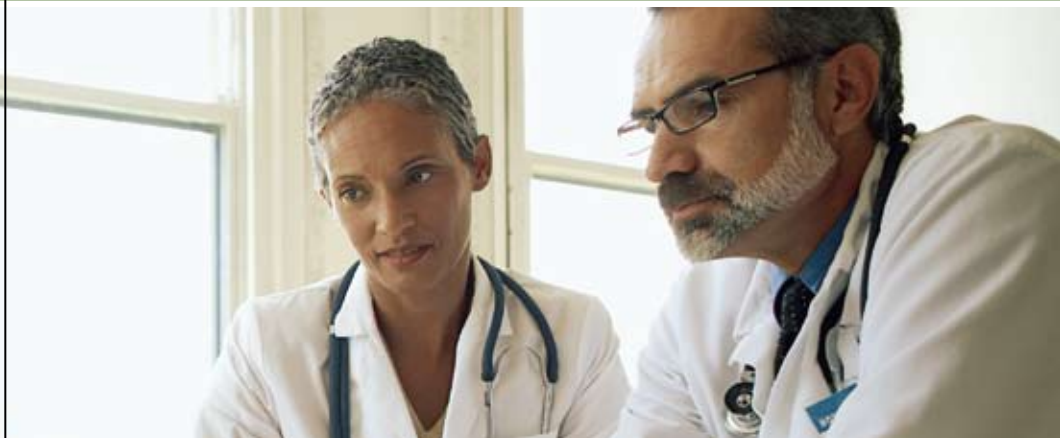


Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). An inflammation of the mucosa and the wall of the colon and/or small bowel that includes disorders such as Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis. We are involved in clinical research, helping with the advancements of knowledge and treatments of IBD.

Crohn's Disease is an ongoing disorder that results in the inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, commonly affecting the terminal ileum. Common side effects of Crohn's Disease are abdominal pain, diarrhea and bleeding.

Ulcerative Colitis. A chronic inflammation of the mucosa of the large intestine that can affect the rectum, a portion of the large intestine or the entire colon. Some of the most common symptoms are diarrhea, bleeding and abdominal pain. In rare cases, surgery can be necessary.

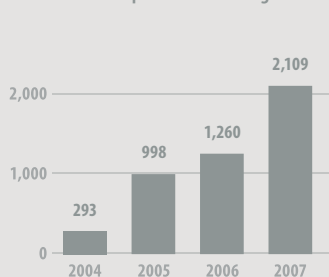




Motility Diseases

Many people suffer from gastrointestinal motility disorders, which can result in the patient having abdominal pain, fullness, bloating, nausea, vomiting as well as inability to feed. GI Specialists of Georgia physicians diagnose, treat and educate patients about motility disorders. One of the more common motility diseases we treat is gastroparesis.

Gastroparesis Cases Diagnosed



EGD

An Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) is a procedure commonly performed on patients suffering from Dysphasia, odynophagia, upper GI bleeding, suspected ulcers or tumors.

Number of Procedures Performed



Esophageal Diseases

GI Specialists of Georgia provides the most advanced treatment of esophageal disease through cutting edge diagnostic and treatment techniques: EUS, Photodynamic therapy and internal stenting. Some of these diseases include:

Reflux Esophagitis/GERD. A condition where stomach acid refluxes backwards up into the esophagus causing inflammation and damage to the esophagus.

Barrett's Esophagus. A serious condition that develops in some people who have chronic untreated GERD. This disease can cause abnormal changes in the cells that line the esophagus and increase risk for developing esophageal cancer. The risk of developing adenocarcinoma is 30 to 125 times higher in people who have Barrett's esophagus than in people who do not.

Reflux Esophagitis Cases Diagnosed



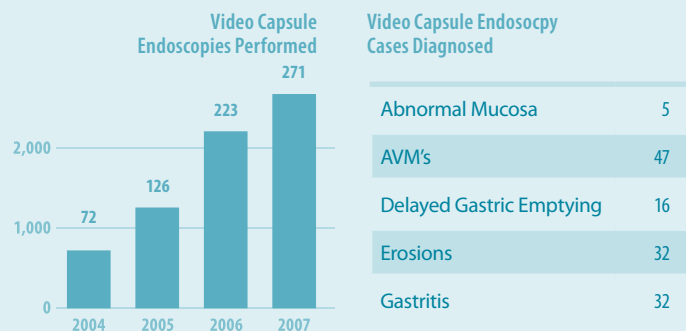
Barrett's Esophagus Cases Diagnosed





Video Capsule Endoscopy

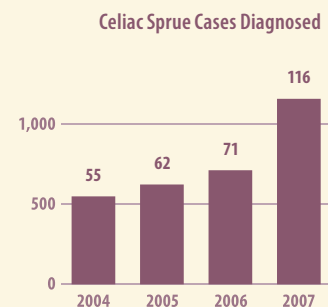
Approved in 2001, Video Capsule Endoscopy is an important innovation in diagnostic endoscopy. The procedure involves a patient swallowing a high resolution pill camera that records a video of the small bowel and intestinal mucosa while moving through the gastrointestinal tract. GI Specialists of Georgia offers this latest technology to examine the small intestine, which is difficult to visualize through traditional endoscopic techniques. Patients with intestinal bleeding, tumors and Crohn's disease benefit from this technology. Our physicians are trained in reading these results in order to provide the best diagnosis and treatment for our patients.



Small Bowel Diseases

Celiac Sprue is a digestive disease that interferes with the absorption of gluten found in wheat, barley and rye. An accurate diagnosis allows our physicians and midlevels to best educate our patients with regard to specific diet plans and treatments.

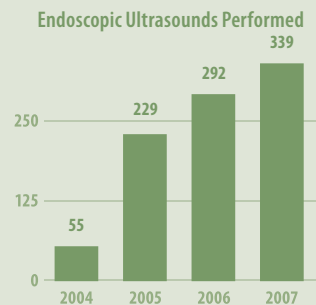
Approximately 1 in 133 people have Celiac disease, however only about 3% of these have been diagnosed. This means that there are over 2.1 million undiagnosed people with Celiac disease in the United States.





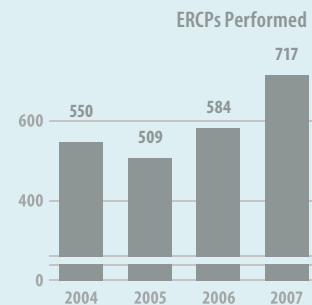
Endoscopic Ultrasound

The endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) is a state of the art technique used to aid in the evaluation and treatment of cancers and tumors of the digestive system. During the procedure, the physician inserts an endoscope through a patient’s mouth or anus. A small ultrasound transducer in the endoscope produces sound waves that create a viewable image of surrounding tissue. This allows us to more effectively diagnose and stage rectal, esophageal, gastric and pancreatic cancers and mediastinal lymphadenopathy. In addition, EUS enables us to safely biopsy mediastinal lymph nodes, eliminating the need for surgery.



ERCP

Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) may be useful in diagnosing and treating persistent abdominal pain caused by gallstones, Pancreatitis, pancreatic and ductal benign and malignant lesions.



Biliary and Pancreatic Disorders

Our physicians at GI Specialists of Georgia are active and highly effective in treating pancreatic and biliary disorders. We treat an exhaustive list, including cholelithiasis, choledocholithiasis, and cholangitis. Pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, biliary ductal cancer and pancreatic pseudo cysts.



Liver Diseases

Since the beginning of this practice, our physicians have been committed to the treatment of liver diseases. This chart displays our liver disease patient registry by year.

Liver Disease Registry

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Abnormal Liver Function Test	2,265	2,046	2,652	3,144
Hepatitis C	1,711	1,799	1,653	1,957
Cirrhosis	1,158	1,818	1,517	1,891
Hepatitis Autoimmune, A,B, Other	236	273	368	347
Fatty Liver	236	375	445	590
Hemochromatosis	15	31	27	41
Wilson's Disease	0	0	1	1

Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is the most common form of infectious hepatitis, affecting more than three million people in the United States. It can be spread through blood transfusions and contaminated needles.

GI Specialists of Georgia is working to eradicate the virus, eliminating long term complications and the need for liver transplants.

Hepatitis C Patient Outcomes*

	PEGASYS	PEG-INTRON	REBETRON	INFERGEN	TOTAL
Sustained Viral Response	11	5	0	0	16
Non Responder/ Re-lapser	2	7	0	0	9
Intolerant	2	0	0	1	3
Failed to follow-up	3	3	0	0	6
Currently on treatment	1	1	0	0	2
Total Patients	19	16	0	1	36

*Patients to date based on completion of treatment



Research and Education

At GI Specialists of Georgia, we are committed to providing our patients with every resource available for the treatment of gastrointestinal and liver diseases as demonstrated by our focus on clinical research studies and continuing education.

Clinical Research Studies

Clinical research studies allow us to provide the most up to date medical treatment and education for our patients. We have on staff certified clinical research coordinators and a research team made up of physicians and nurse practitioners. All of our studies are performed under the guidelines of the FDA's Code of Federal Regulations and ICH Good Clinical Practice Standards, and recent studies include Hepatitis C, Crohn's and ulcerative colitis.

Continuing Education

Our staff is dedicated to ensuring we are on the cutting edge of the diagnosis, treatment and education of gastroenterology. Our physicians and nurse practitioners attend continuing education classes to stay abreast of new medications, treatments and procedures, and each month they participate in a monthly journal club and GI tumor board to critically evaluate new information in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology.

Staff

We have an expertly trained medical team with special training in diagnostic and interventional gastroenterology and liver diseases. Our interventional team performs procedures ranging from endoscopic ultrasound, complex pancreatic and biliary endoscopies, photodynamic therapy, enteral stenting and other advanced procedures.

Physicians

Arif A. Aziz, MD
David C. Ballard, MD
Francisco J. Cardenas, MD
Anish A. Desai, MD
David Finkelman, MD, MBA, FAGC, AGAF
William Fortson, MD
Suku George, MD, MPH, FACP
Sachin Goel, MD, AGAF
Jeffrey L. Kim, MD
Ross A. Kommor, MD
Jack R. Koransky, MD
Subodh K. Lal, MD
Anuj Paul Manocha, MD
K. Mike Michaelides, MD
Judith Oh, MD
Priti Pandya, MD
Michael S. Perkel, MD, AGAF
Harry Piyasena, MD
Robert M. Strauss, MD
Ritesh Shah, MD
Aasim M. Sheikh, MD

Mid Level Staff

Kimberly G. Clay, APRN, BC
Mamie D. Fredrickson, PA-C
Paula Guenther, NP-C
Tracy Jones, NP
Nina D. Loftus, NP-C
Michelle Lovett, NP-C
Linda Starhia, NP-C, MBA
Lynn Wilkins, NP

Contact Information

We welcome all inquiries about our practice. You may call us at 678-741-5000, 770-739-9555 or 770-429-0031 or visit our website at www.gigeorgia.com.

For Open Access Screening, call 678-741-2313

Our administrative office is located at:
1700 Hospital South Drive, Suite 502
Austell, Georgia 30106

If you have any questions or comments concerning our 2007 Quality Outcome Report, please contact Denise Headrick, Chief Operations Officer or David Finkelman, President and CEO.

Offices

Austell

1700 Hospital South Drive, Suite 502
Austell, GA 30106

Douglasville

6043 Prestley Mill Road, Suite D
Douglasville, GA 30134

East Cobb Medical Center

1010 Johnson Ferry Road
Marietta, GA 30068

Hiram

148 Bill Curruth Parkway, Suite 200
Hiram, GA 30141

Lithia Springs

880 Crestmark Drive, Suite 102
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Marietta

61 Whitcher Street, Suite 3100
Marietta, GA 30060

Towne Lake

120 Stonebridge Parkway, Suite 110
Woodstock, GA 30188

Villa Rica

401 Permian Way, Suite A
Villa Rica, GA 30180

Endoscopy Centers

Gastrointestinal Specialists of Georgia has two endoscopy centers, GI Diagnostics Endoscopy Center, LLC in Marietta and DCA Diagnostics in Lithia Springs. Both facilities are accredited by the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). This accreditation speaks to commitment to quality and service. An accredited center is required to comply with all regulations and national standards for quality endoscopic services.

DCA Diagnostics

880 Crestmark Drive, Suite 102
Lithia Springs, Georgia 30122

GI Diagnostics Endoscopy Center, LLC

2550 Windy Hill Road, Suite 302
Marietta, Georgia 30067

Hospital Affiliations

WellStar Cobb Hospital

3950 Austell Road
Austell, GA 30106
(770) 732-4000

WellStar Kennestone Hospital

677 Church Street
Marietta, GA 30060
770-793-5000

WellStar Douglas Hospital

8954 Hospital Drive
Douglasville, GA 30134
770-949-1500

WellStar Paulding Hospital

600 West Memorial Drive
Dallas, GA 30132
770-445-4411

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