



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

August 19, 2013

Via E-mail

Mr. Scott A. Estes  
Chief Financial Officer  
Health Care REIT, Inc.  
4500 Dorr Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43615

**Re: Health Care REIT, Inc.**  
**Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012**  
**Filed February 26, 2013**  
**File No. 1-8923**

Dear Mr. Estes:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kevin Woody

Kevin Woody  
Branch Chief