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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Novant Health and Halifax Regional Medical Center announce intent to merge

Winston-Salem, NC and Roanoke Rapids, NC – December 6, 2013 – Halifax Regional Medical Center and Novant Health announced today that they intend to merge after a formal process led by the Halifax Regional Board to select a strategic partner. Following a one-year management agreement during which due diligence will be completed, Halifax Regional Medical Center intends to merge with Novant Health.

Novant Health and Halifax Regional Medical Center will work together to make healthcare more affordable and improve patient outcomes in the community.

“Novant Health is committed to developing relationships with strategic partners to strengthen healthcare services and make healthcare services affordable for all,” said Carl S. Armato, president and CEO of Novant Health. “Halifax Regional Medical Center’s mission to provide excellent and compassionate healthcare aligns with the guiding principles at Novant Health. We are excited about working closer with Halifax Regional to improve affordability and make healthcare remarkable for the residents in the communities we serve.”

“Earlier this year, Halifax Regional set out on a journey to find a partner who is a leader in healthcare while we position to move into the future during this dynamic time. We are very pleased to work with Novant Health because of their previous work with other community hospitals and their desire to help keep care local for patients,” said Board Chairman Bob Patterson. “We look forward to a partnership with an innovative system that understands our needs as a community hospital in North Carolina and supports our not for profit mission. We expect the merger will bring an additional capital investment of \$35 million over five years.”

“The Halifax Regional board has pursued a strategic partner in a thoughtful and deliberate way,” said Mark Billings, president of Novant Health Shared Services. “We look forward to collaborating with the Halifax Regional leadership team to bring improved access to affordable quality healthcare to the residents in and around Halifax and Northampton Counties.”

The management agreement is expected to begin in March 2014.

About Novant Health

Novant Health is a four-state integrated network of physician practices, outpatient centers and hospitals that delivers a seamless and convenient healthcare experience to our communities. The Novant Health network consists of more than 1,100 physicians and 24,000 employees who make healthcare remarkable at more than 450 locations including 14 medical centers, three hospitals, and hundreds of outpatient facilities and physician clinics. Headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC, Novant Health is committed to making healthcare remarkable for our patients and our communities serving over four million patients annually. In 2012, Novant Health

provided more than \$545 million in community benefit including charity care and services. Novant Health is one of the top 25 integrated health systems in the United States and was named a top 50 Best Places for Diverse & Women Managers to Work by Diversity MBA Magazine.

For more information, please visit our website at NovantHealth.org. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

About Halifax Regional

Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare organizations. The Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. They offer an array of medical and surgical services, including 24-hour emergency care, backed by the latest technology. The staff and physicians strive to create a compassionate environment where our approximately 800 employees can deliver the best care every hour of every day. The staff of more than 60 physicians represents most medical specialties.