

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

RALEIGH CARDIOLOGY PHYSICIANS STAFF CARDIAC & VASCULAR CENTER AT HALIFAX REGIONAL.

Excellent Relationship with Roanoke Rapids Doctors

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N.C. (November 13, 2009)—Raleigh Cardiology Associates, a group of nine heart doctors, is providing physician services at the Cardiac & Vascular Center of Halifax Regional.

Formed in 1979, Raleigh Cardiology is a highly recognized specialty physician group that has provided care for many residents in the Roanoke Valley.

“We are delighted to welcome Raleigh Cardiology to Halifax Regional,” said Will Mahone, president of the Medical Center. “These physicians are highly trained and have a broad range of experience in both cardiac and vascular procedures, enabling us to offer residents of the region outstanding care close to home.”

Cardiac and vascular procedures refer to various non-surgical procedures for treating cardiovascular disease. Interventional cardiologists use catheters—thin-flexible tubes—to get inside blood vessels for diagnostic tests or to repair damaged vessels, often avoiding the need for surgery.

Interventional cardiologists treat narrowed arteries and weakened heart valves, often caused by coronary artery disease, heart valve disease or peripheral artery disease (PAD).

Raleigh Cardiology’s physicians and staff of the Cardiac & Vascular Center are experienced in diagnosing and treating PAD, in which blockages are opened to increase the flow to arms and legs, preventing possible amputation of these limbs.

Another major service of the Cardiac & Vascular Center is cardiac catheterization—a test to determine blood flow for blockages and blood pressure in the chambers of the heart.

The staff also installs pacemakers to ensure appropriate rhythm of the heart.

“Raleigh Cardiology is delighted to be providing services at Halifax Regional,” said Mark Leithe, MD, one of the physicians who practices regularly at the Medical Center. “The staff is well trained and focused on patient care, comfort, and quality outcomes.

“The equipment in the Cardiac & Vascular Center is state-of-the-art,” Leithe continued. “The lab could not have been set up better. It surpasses some labs in larger hospitals.”

Isaac Miller, MD, an internal medicine specialist at Halifax Medical Specialists, says “there is an excellent connection with Raleigh Cardiology to handle complications and emergencies.” Miller has referred patients to Raleigh Cardiology for more than 20 years, “and the physicians there know many of our patients,” he added.

“The cardiac services at Halifax Regional are very good and meet the needs of the community,” said Somasekhara Balla, MD, a Cardiologist also with Halifax Medical Specialists. “I recommend patients use those services, depending on their condition. Patients do not have to travel long distances away from home and family.”

Natarajan Manickam, MD, a Cardiologist with Halifax Medical Specialists, says “we have a very good relationship with Raleigh Cardiology and very good cardiac services are available here, with a good support system.”

Shirley Allen agrees. She recently had a heart catheterization to determine if she had a problem with her heart. “Dr. Leithe performed the procedure and explained everything he did,” she said. “He was very concerned for my comfort. If I had any discomfort, he stopped and ordered more medication.”

Allen, who works in the finance department of Halifax Regional, said “our staff was wonderful. They tried to ease my fears and concerns.

“My arteries were clear,” Allen continued. “I had an excellent outcome.

“Being the patient rather than the employee is quite different,” she said. “I can honestly say that I felt comfortable with the knowledge and professionalism shown by everyone I came in contact with.”

If you have experienced pain in your chest or legs, particularly following any type of exertion, the cause could be constricting blood vessels due to an accumulation of plaque. See your primary care physician or cardiologist.

These procedures are performed on an outpatient basis, allowing patients to be home the same day. “Patients and their family members benefit from the convenience of Halifax Regional and our outstanding quality of care,” said Mahone.

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About Halifax Regional

Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204-beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit www.halifaxregional.us.