

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

The Birthing Center at Halifax Regional Honored for Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Rate

Roanoke Rapids, NC (February 4, 2014) – The Birthing Center at Halifax Regional has been recognized by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) for achieving the highest reported rates in the state for its work to protect newborns from hepatitis B virus infection. Halifax Regional is the only medical facility in the state of North Carolina to be included on IAC's Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll.

“The Birthing Center staff takes the health of our newborns very seriously, Birthing Center, Operations Specialist and Patient Liaisons Manager, Amy Joseph. We are honored by the IAC’s acknowledgement of our success rate. It’s important to make sure babies have the best start in life by receiving their hepatitis B vaccine.”

Halifax Regional is the newest entry into IAC’s Birth Dose Honor Roll (www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose), which recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that have attained high coverage levels for administering the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. The Birthing Center at Halifax Regional immunized 100 percent of babies from 12/1/12-12/1/13 and took additional steps to prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B.

The national standard of care to prevent hepatitis B virus infection in babies is to administer hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns before they leave the hospital or birthing center. This standard is being adopted by centers of healthcare excellence nationwide as a safety net to protect newborns from a wide range of medical errors that lead to babies being unprotected from perinatal hepatitis B infection.

“Hospitals and birthing centers have a responsibility to protect babies from life-threatening hepatitis B infection,” said Deborah Wexler, MD, executive director and founder of IAC. “Halifax Regional’s commitment to the best practice of hepatitis B vaccination at birth has shown them to be a leader in preventing the transmission of the hepatitis B virus.”

Having a baby is a life-changing event for a family. The Birthing Center at Halifax Regional is here to help with pregnancy, questions, and recovery after childbirth. To learn more about The Birthing Center at Halifax Regional, visit www.halifaxregional.org and select The Birthing Center tab.

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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.org.