

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

Spring Brings Round of Firsts for Halifax Regional

Roanoke Rapids, NC (April 5, 2013) - Halifax Regional closed out the month of March proud of its accomplishments of multiple “firsts” including the Wound Care Center welcoming their first patient to receive hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy, and the Cardiac & Vascular Lab implanting its first diagnostic device, along with its first implanted cardiac defibrillator, and the Joint Care Center announcing its first No. 1 ranking for quality measures in joint replacement.

Recently completing the installation of two new HBO chambers in February, the Wound Care Center welcomed Mr. Chester Burks III resident of Roanoke Rapids, as the first patient to begin hyperbaric oxygen therapy. HBO therapy is used to treat some medical conditions. The treatment takes place in a chamber that the patient is able to see out of. The patient lies on a stretcher inside the chamber and can watch TV or a movie. The pressurized chamber delivers one hundred percent oxygen to the bloodstream and that oxygen is taken to the injured area to aid in healing. Treatments last approximately two hours each session. Treatment is different for each patient, but most patients receive between 30 and 40 treatments.

Kept company by his wife Helen and daughter Deborah, Mr. Burke III prayed and watched television during the two hour HBO therapy session in the chamber. “[I] felt like I was home on the couch,” said Burke III. To maintain comfort and safety, patients’ vital signs and ears are examined by a trained HBO technician before each session in the chamber. Diabetic patients also have their blood sugar checked.

Staff of the Cardiac & Vascular Lab successfully completed three implant procedures in late March including the lab’s first Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD). The ICD is programmed to detect cardiac arrhythmia (abnormal heart rhythm) and correct it by delivering a jolt of electricity bringing the heart back to a normal rhythm. Many patients receive an ICD as a treatment option for cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest is a major health problem. According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac arrest kills approximately 295,000 people each year in the United States.

Also implanted was an Implantable Cardiac Monitor (ICM). The ICM is used to record the heart’s rate and rhythm continuously. The ICM can help diagnose whether symptoms like fainting, dizziness, palpitations and unexplained seizure-like episodes have a cardiovascular cause. The device works much like a “black box” in an airplane, whereby vital information is recorded during the actual fainting episode and can be played back later for detailed analysis. The device, manufactured by Medtronic, can continuously record the heart’s rhythm and

rate for up to 14 months. The Cardiac & Vascular Lab recently expanded its services by offering these cardiac devices pacemakers, defibrillators, and loop recorders.

Topping off a month of significant “firsts” was the announcement that Halifax Regional ranks No. 1 for hip and knee replacement surgery in the state of North Carolina. News of this accomplishment was shared in during a press event on March 20th held at Halifax Regional’s Joint Care Center. Lead orthopedic surgeon Dr. Holm along with Joint Care Center clinical staff and previous patients all rallied together to kick off a multi-layered marketing campaign promoting the their quality metrics and No. 1 ranking for joint replacement.

These milestones of reflect Halifax Regional’s efforts to continuously pursue new medical technologies, treatments, and process improvements that all go to the good of keeping patients first.

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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.