

# NEWS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL'S CARDIAC & VASCULAR CENTER GROWING**

*28 Procedures Performed This Year*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC. (March 3, 2010)**--Developing a new service with expensive technology sometimes is risky, but the Cardiac & Vascular Center at Halifax Regional is meeting a need in the community.

Six months ago, Halifax Regional contracted with Raleigh Cardiology Associates to provide physician services previously unavailable in the Roanoke Valley.

Raleigh Cardiology is a well recognized group of nine heart doctors that has provided care to many residents of the Roanoke Valley for years. During that time, the residents had to travel to Raleigh to be treated. Now, the physicians are coming to their patients.

In October, there were only three procedures completed the entire month. In January and February, there were 28 procedures.

"We are delighted with the response to this service," said Bruce Robistow, Administrative Director of Clinical and Support Operations. "The response indicates there is a need for these specialized services in our region."

Two patients who recently underwent heart catheterizations commented on their experience. One said she came in very scared but the staff made her feel at ease. Another said she is feeling fine now and that she received excellent care.

A patient who received an angiogram said he is amazed at the technology that is available at Halifax Regional.

A major factor in the success of the Cardiac & Vascular Center is the close cooperation between the Raleigh physicians and their counterparts in Roanoke Rapids.

Natarajan Manickam, MD, a cardiologist with Halifax Medical Specialists, says, "We have a very good relationship with Raleigh Cardiology and very good services here, with an excellent support system."

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

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

“We are offering quality care in an affordable setting,” said Robistow. “Patients and their families save money when they use Halifax Regional when their condition indicates they need diagnosis and intervention at the Cardiac & Vascular Center.”

Another reason for the success of the center is the staff at Halifax Regional. Three employees, Sherri Gupton, RT-RM, Tesha King, RT-R, Tonya Hasty, RN, were provided extensive training and given new opportunities for career development. Each is from the Roanoke Valley.

“The staff is well trained and focused on patient care, comfort and quality outcomes,” said Mark Leithe, MD of Raleigh Cardiology.

The Cardiac & Vascular Center offers several services needed in the Roanoke Valley to treat chest and leg pain:

- When a family physician or cardiologist suspects chest pain, patients often are referred to the Cardiac & Vascular Center for a cardiac catheterization. That’s when a tiny flexible tube is passed through your arteries to your heart to check blood flow and blood pressure in the arteries and chamber of the heart. Then, the cardiologist determines the best course of treatment.
- Symptoms of Peripheral artery disease (PAD) include pain in the muscles of the legs following exertion. Consult your primary care doctor, who may recommend an angiogram at the Cardiac & Vascular Center. That’s when any blockages may become visible and need to be opened to increase the flow to arms and legs, preventing possible amputation of these limbs.
- Pacemakers also are installed at the Cardiac & Vascular Center to ensure appropriate rhythm of the heart.

These procedures are performed on an outpatient basis, allowing patients to be home the same day.

For more information, visit [www.halifaxcvc.com](http://www.halifaxcvc.com).

#### **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](http://www.halifaxregional.us).*