

NEWS RELEASE



For more information, contact:
Gail Wade
252 535-8111
gwade@halifaxrmc.org

For Immediate Release

HALIFAX REGIONAL OPENS DIGESTIVE HEALTH CENTER

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC—(February 25, 2011)—Halifax Regional has opened its Digestive Health Center to meet the needs of patients with a variety of gastroenterological disorders.

For the first time, the Medical Center will treat patients who need IV medications for diseases, such as gallbladder, ulcers, pancreatitis, diverticulitis, colon polyps and colon cancer, GERD, inflammatory bowel diseases and liver disease/hepatitis.

“This new service means patients in the Roanoke Valley will not have to travel out of town to receive the quality care they need for these disorders,” said Will Mahone, president of Halifax Regional. “Having these services available at the community medical center will be convenient and save patients time and money.”

Most of these treatments will be on an outpatient basis. The patients’ treatment will be managed by Rory O’Connor, MD of Eastern Carolina Gastroenterology. Dr. O’Connor will follow up with patients to ensure the medication is helping to ease their symptoms. Dr. O’Connor is a board certified gastroenterologist.

In addition, the Digestive Health Center has equipment for a number of tests and procedures, including colonoscopy (examination of the large intestines and rectum), gastroscopy (examination of the lining of the esophagus, stomach and upper duodenum), ERCP (procedure to identify stones or tumors), sigmoidoscopy (examination of the lower large intestines and rectum), and liver biopsy.

The Digestive Health Center is in the former GI lab on the second floor of the Medical Center. The space has been renovated. “We have an attractive area with well trained staff to meet the need of patients with digestive disorders,” said Shantea Connell, RN, manager of the Center.

For more information, visit www.halifaxdigestivehealth.com or call Eastern Carolina Gastroenterology at 252 535-1800.

###

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.