

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX REGIONAL REORGANIZES NURSING STAFF

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (February 18, 2010)—Halifax Regional is reorganizing its nursing staff next month to improve nurse patient staffing and reduce expenses.

Beginning March 14, the Medical Center will be treating inpatients from the 6th and 5th floors on the 5th floor and moving patient support functions to the 6th floor. This will provide 76 beds for inpatients on the 5th and 3rd floors for medical and surgical services.

“We will continue to provide the same medical and surgical services,” said Will Mahone, president.

“Realignment of units is an effective strategy used by many hospitals, including Halifax Regional over the years, to meet the needs of patients,” said Mahone. “We must make adjustments just as any business changes to meet the needs of its customers.”

Halifax Regional’s daily census has been declining for the past three years, when it was approximately 80 patients. The average census has been 72 since January 1 and continues to drop. For the past three weeks, the census has been 62. The census is 12.5 percent lower than predicted.

Part of the reason is the declining population of the community. “While there is a need for a 1-2 percent increase in the community’s population to maintain the level of services, the population of Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County actually has declined in the past decade,” noted Mahone.

No employees will lose their jobs as a result of the reorganization, said Mahone. “Some departments had openings, so by transferring employees, we can retain valuable employees,” he said.

Halifax Regional will save money by reducing overtime and supplies while avoiding the purchase of equipment. “Overall, we believe that the Medical Center will become a more efficient operation while maintaining our quality standards,” added Mahone.

“Physicians have been informed of this change and support this decision,” said Shiva Rao, MD, chief of the Medical Staff. “This change will not impact the quality of patient care.”

Anyone with questions or comments should contact Cheryl Wheeler, manager of guest relations, at 252 535-8289.

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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.