

# NEWS RELEASE



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

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## **LEHMAN LEADS HIGH-TECH PHARMACY AT HALIFAX REGIONAL**

When Chris Lehman began working at Halifax Regional, he had one other pharmacist assisting him. Two technicians support them in operating the pharmacy eight hours a day.

Today, 31 years later, Lehman is joined by seven pharmacists, nine technicians, a buyer and a systems analyst. He runs a pharmacy that provides 24 hour pharmacist coverage.

The pharmacy administers approximately 928,000 doses a year, Lehman says. "That's about 5-6 times as many as we gave in 1980 when I came here." The pharmacy fills approximately 600 new orders a day.

"Halifax Regional's pharmacy is modern and continues to expand in technology," says Lehman, a Roanoke Rapids native. A graduate of the School of Pharmacy at UNC, Lehman also has a Master's degree in Public Health and a doctorate of pharmacy degree, also from UNC.

Today, prescriptions are sent electronically to the pharmacy and are entered in the Medical Center's computer system. "Each medication has a bar code, which is swiped to ensure the right medication gets to the right patient," Lehman explains.

Nurses have access to the information so they know what prescription in what amount to give the patient at what time, Lehman says. "Our system is designed to prevent errors," he observes.

The pharmacy has a "clean" room where all IVs are prepared, and a separate room where chemotherapy drugs are prepared.

In addition, a pharmacy tech is in the operating room daily to help with medications. Also, a tech is assigned to the Emergency Care Center to help take a medication history of patients.

Lehman is proud of the pharmacy employees and their long term commitment to Halifax Regional. “The pharmacists range from 10 to 31 years’ experience in our pharmacy,” he explains.

“They were reared here in Roanoke Rapids, went away to college and pharmacy school and then returned,” Lehman says. “There is one exception: A pharmacist who married a Roanoke Rapids native.” Many were volunteers or students here and went to pharmacy school and returned, he says.

“The team is fantastic,” he says. “We have a wonderful and dedicated group that is excited about their role in the health of patients and the technology to come in the future.”

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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](http://www.halifaxregional.org).*