

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

HIGH-TECH PHONES IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AT HALIFAX REGIONAL

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC--(January 7, 2011)--Halifax Regional has added a high-tech telephone system to improve communications among the staff.

As part of its \$750,000 project to improve technology, the Medical Center purchased 62 wireless telephones that connect nurses and other caregivers in the building and physicians.

“The phones are part of our new computer upgrades so they can connect anywhere in the main building,” said Robert Gordon, manager of Information Technology.

“The phones are connected to our main phone system so calls can be made and received outside the hospital,” he added. “But if the main system failed, nurses still could use the wireless system to communicate with each other within the hospital.

A nurse needing to call a physician now can place a call directly from anyplace in the building, said Belinda Jones-Hill, nurse manager of ICU.

“Similarly, a physician can call a nurse directly.”

The phones also help improve communication between the Emergency Care Center and coordinators who find beds for patients. “It is another example of how we put patients first at Halifax Regional,” said Jones-Hill.

“It helps us meet the needs of the patient quicker when we make calls directly from the bedside of the patient,” said Kim Williams, RN, a case manager. “We can communicate between departments because we are accessible regardless of our location,” she said.

“The phones free the nurse to care for patients and multi-task while waiting on a call,” said Maxine Green, a nurse in behavioral health.

“I love the fact that I can make a call and continue to work, instead of having to wait near a phone,” said Amy Jordan, a nurse in the progressive care unit.

“Now, if we know a sick baby is coming from the operating room, we can alert the staff about what is needed on arrival,” said Sarah Ricks, a nurse in The Birthing Center. “The new phones allow better communication among the staff in planning for a patient’s care.”

The phones remain in the main building so employees who are on the job can access them.

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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.