

## NEWS RELEASE



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### For Immediate Release

### **Halifax Regional Take Prompt Action in Response to Meningitis Outbreak**

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (October 19, 2012)**—Halifax Regional has proactively pulled its entire inventory of injectable drugs manufactured by New England Compounding Center (NECC), the Framingham, MA compounding pharmacy at the center of a nationwide fungal meningitis outbreak. All NECC injectable drugs were pulled a day earlier than the national U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) recall.

Halifax Regional has never purchased, stocked or administered any of the NECC manufactured drugs linked to the cases of meningitis. Halifax Regional proactively pulled all other pharmaceutical products manufactured by NECC from its inventory and ceased use of any NECC drugs as of October 5, 2012.

Because fungal infections can be slow to develop, patients are advised to watch for symptoms for several months after they received the shot. Those who have had an epidural steroid injection or and have any of the following symptoms, should talk to their doctor immediately: new or worsening headache, fever, sensitivity to light, stiff neck, weakness or numbness in the body, slurred speech, or increased pain, redness or swelling at your injection site.

Halifax Regional is educating its Emergency Department staff to be vigilant and watch for incoming patients to the Emergency Care Center who may show signs and symptoms of fungal meningitis. The medical center is working closely with NC Division of Public Health along with federal public health agencies to stay informed of the outbreak and up-to-the minute status reports.

For more information, patients should visit [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov).

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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).*