

# NEWS RELEASE



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Gwen Davis, RN (Right) and Tracy Olesnevich, RN review electronic forms created to help nurses in the ICU.

## **GWEN DAVIS, A STUDY IN JOB OPPORTUNITY**

*Former Emergency Room Nurse Promoted at Halifax Regional*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC - (October 26, 2008) - When Gwen Davis graduated from Halifax Community College with a nursing degree 26 years ago, she went right to work at Halifax Regional taking care of patients. She has clinical experience in the Birthing Center, Telemetry and the Emergency Care Center.**

Today, she has a new title and a new job description. Davis has been promoted to Manager of Clinical Informatics at Halifax Regional.

As a Registered Nurse, she provided care directly to patients and acquired critical thinking skills. "My clinical background is the foundation of my job performance today."

As Manager of Clinical Informatics, she improves patient care electronically. Her job is to expand Halifax Regional's medical records system throughout the organization. Today, when a patient comes to Halifax Regional, an electronic medical record is created with essential information about the patient, such as lab or x-ray results, physician orders and documentation of the care of the patient.

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“The benefits of having this information electronically are access and accuracy,” Davis says. “A patient’s doctor has secure access to this information from the computer, whether the doctor is at the office, the hospital or their home. And we do not have to guess at handwriting,” she says with a smile. “Everything is in one place.”

Clinical Informatics is a specialty service in hospitals that brings together science, computers and medical information to provide a safer, higher level of quality care. “We provide the tools for the staff for documentation. With information being readily available, decisions can be made to improve patient care and outcomes while maintaining patient confidentiality,” Davis says.

Halifax Regional’s system is so advanced that other hospitals come to Roanoke Rapids to learn about it. “Just in the last six months, three hospitals have come here to visit us.”

Information for the patient’s record comes from physicians, case managers, dietitians, pharmacy, operating rooms and other sources. “Our system will even send reminders,” Davis says. “For example, it will notify the dietitian to see a patient about his diet while in the hospital if certain criteria are met.”

Davis leads a staff of three, including Sheryl Watson, RN and Shawn Frazier, PT, which is responsible for implementing the clinical applications in the computerized system. “We build what the end users see,” Davis explains. “It’s like putting a puzzle together. We work as a team and think outside of the box. We also work closely with Information Systems, Nursing Services, physicians and other ancillary services. Without collaboration and cooperation from other departments our successes would be minimal. It is truly a team effort.”

Back in 1999, Davis was asked to join a team studying how to transition from patient information on paper to a computer. “I learned on the job and fell in love with it,” she says. She worked in Performance Improvement and learned the computer. Then in 2001, she became the first full-time employee in Informatics at Halifax Regional.

Davis lives in her hometown of Conway. Her husband, Richard, is a Nursing Supervisor at Roanoke-Chowan Hospital. They have one adult son, Michael, who lives in Greenville.

“It’s rewarding to be part of something that can be used to document the care of patients, because at Halifax Regional, that’s what we are all about – putting patients first.”

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*Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 206 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](http://www.halifaxregional.us).*