

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX REGIONAL TO INTRODUCE NEW SERVICE

Cardiac & Vascular Center Will Open in October

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC –September 21, 2008—Halifax Regional will introduce a major new service next month, the Cardiac & Vascular Center.

Halifax Regional has invested \$2.5 million in developing the service designed to meet a major health need in the region. "The incidence of cardiac and vascular disease in this region is high, and we believe we can improve the health of many people and save lives in our region through this service," said Will Mahone, president & CEO of Halifax Regional.

The Cardiac & Vascular Center is scheduled to open October 6 in a renovated section of the first floor of the Medical Center. The Center includes a control room where operations are monitored and an exam room with state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. Coronary angioplasty, cardiac catheterizations, peripheral angiography, angioplasty and stenting will be performed in the new center.

Nadim Geloo, M.D. is medical director of the Cardiac & Vascular Center. He came to Halifax Regional last year to help develop the center. Geloo is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. He is a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware. He also completed a fellowship in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at East Carolina University.

"We have invested in the latest technology to provide a high quality service," said Mahone. "Dr. Geloo is an exceptionally well trained specialist who is assisted by well qualified technologists," Mahone said. "Through this service, Halifax Regional is reducing the need for patients to travel out of town to receive excellent medical care."

If you experience pain in your chest, legs, or arms particularly following any type of exertion, the cause could be constricting blood vessels due to an accumulation of plaque. This is called atherosclerosis. In the legs and arms, it is known as peripheral artery disease (PAD).

Symptoms include pain in the legs or arms, but in the muscles, not the joints. The legs hurt while walking or the arms ache while lifting, but pain may subside when resting. If you are experiencing these types of pains, consult your primary care physician who may recommend an angiogram.

For pain in the chest, a cardiac catheterization often is the first step. That procedure, also available at Halifax Regional, is a test to determine blood flow and blood pressure in the chambers of the heart.

Often, coronary angioplasty can be performed to open arteries so blood can flow more freely to the heart. A stent may be inserted to maintain the newly opened passage. "This procedure may not only relieve pain," said Geloo, "but it also will identify the degree of coronary disease present thus dictating appropriate long term therapy to reduce the risk of a heart attack."

These medical procedures are done primary on an outpatient basis, allowing patients to return home the same day. For more information, call 535-8259.

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About the Halifax Regional

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.