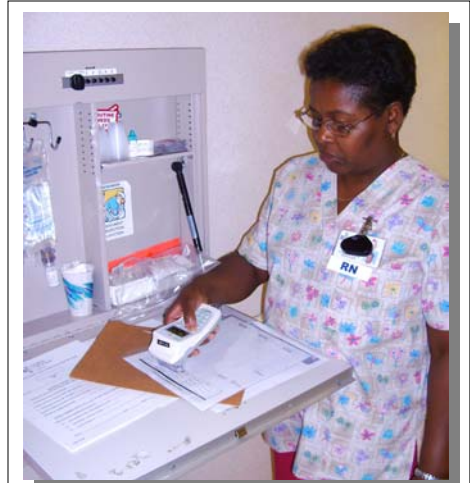


# NEWS RELEASE



For more information, contact:  
Henry Robertson  
(252) 535-8585  
[hrobertson@halifaxrmc.org](mailto:hrobertson@halifaxrmc.org)



**Mable Turner, RN, Clinical Supervisor for 5<sup>th</sup> Floor uses the CAREt before administering medications.**

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL INVESTS IN PATIENT SAFETY TECHNOLOGY** *Potential Medication Errors Can Be Prevented*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC – (May 27, 2008) –Halifax Regional is utilizing a new patient safety device from IntelliDot that reduces the possibility of medication errors.**

The new handheld device called CAREt uses barcode technology and the ability to connect wirelessly to patients' electronic medical records to track medications. CAREt tells nurses what medications, the time for the next dose and even checks to be certain that the drug is given to the correct patients in the correct amount. The CAREt also allows nursing staff to document patients' vital signs and pain levels as medications are administered; increasing the efficiency of nurses. All information entered into the CAREt automatically downloads into the patient's record via a secured wireless network.

A barcode (means of encoding text information that is read electronically) is assigned each type of medication in the Medical Center's pharmacy. When a drug is ordered, the barcode is scanned into the computer system along with information about the dose, the patient, time to be administered, and how the drug is to be given. Nurses use CAREt to scan the patient's wristband identifying the patient, then the barcode to insure the correct drug for that patient. The CAREt will then prompt the nurse how the medication is to be given, the correct time for the patient to receive the dose or if the patient has any allergies to the drug. After administering the drug, the nurse will scan a barcode on his/her namebadge to "sign" that patient has received the medication.

"Patient safety is our top priority at Halifax Regional," said Karen Daniels, Vice President of Nursing, "We have invested in the IntelliDot system to bring about an added level of safety which can help keep patients from receiving the wrong medication or incorrect dosage."

Halifax Regional has begun to activate the system in the Intensive Care Unit, Progressive Care Unit and on the fifth Floor medical/pediatric unit. Complete implementation is scheduled the end of June.

###

**About 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](http://www.halifaxregional.us).*