

# NEWS RELEASE



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

**For Immediate Release**

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL EXPANDS THERAPY SERVICES**

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC – (November 9, 2008) – Halifax Regional’s Therapy Department has expanded its services to include speech therapy five days a week.**

Patients will benefit from the 15 years of experience Sheri Konopko, Certified Speech Language Pathologist, brings to Halifax Regional. Konopko develops a customized program to meet each patient’s needs.

“Many of our patients come to us following traumatic injuries or strokes,” said Konopko. “Each patient is different and faces challenges unique to his or her situation.”

Speech therapy involves working with patients who have physical or neurological problems that affect cognitive, speech, mouth, and even esophageal control. “Patients may not be able to think of the correct word, pronounce words, or understand words as they are spoken or written,” said Konopko. She also works with patients who have trouble with higher level thinking such as problem solving.

“My passion is working with people who have lost or have a reduced ability to communicate,” Konopko said, “To see a patient’s progress from simple incomplete thoughts to full conversational speech is a wonderful thing.”

Konopko attended Brooklyn College and received degrees in Elementary Education and Communication Disorders. She then attended Southern Connecticut State University to receive a Master’s Degree in Communication Disorders. She has shared her passion for helping people regain their communication skills with countless patients from New Britton General Hospital to Sun Dance Rehabilitation and even Foundation School for autistic children – all of which are located in Connecticut. Konopko joined Halifax Regional’s Rehabilitation Department in October.

TherEX provides rehab services for Halifax Regional. “We selected TherEX because of its proven track record,” said Bruce Rubistow, administrative director of Clinical and Support Services. TherEx is recognized nationally for the quality of its rehab programs in hospitals and in outpatient clinics.

Speech therapy will be provided to inpatients and outpatients ranging in age from toddler to senior citizen. Outpatients are able to receive treatment at both the Medical Center and at Halifax Physical Therapy located at 120 Professional Drive. For information, call 252 535-3028.

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**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).*