

# Changes at CarolinaEast Medical Center

For more than sixty years, the providers of Coastal Children's Clinic have prided themselves on providing excellent & available healthcare for the children of our community. From our founder, Dr. Graham Barden, Jr's, first solo office in his home on Johnson Street, to our three office, 12 provider practice covering 4 counties today, we have made it our goal to always be available to our patients and their families.

The recent modernization of the Nursery/Labor and Delivery Complex in our hospital (CarolinaEast) does not lend itself well to the old style of community-based physicians rounding in the hospital twice daily and always on-call at a moment's notice. It is safer for the rare sick infant or child to have pediatricians who are more often in the hospital and who can focus exclusively on providing excellent care to very sick infants and children when needed. For this reason both pediatric groups in town, Coastal Children's Clinic and CarolinaEast Pediatrics have decided to withdraw from inpatient care and support the new group of "hospitalist" pediatricians whose only job is caring for newborns and inpatient pediatric patients. This change occurred in November 2018 and it has been a huge success!

This change has enabled us to improve availability with our new early morning Walk-In hours as well as continue our commitment for pediatricians to be directly available by phone after office hours seven days a week to answer emergency calls on our ***Emergency Number, 252-633-2269***. That number has not changed in over 50 years! It has helped us do what we do best - keeping sick children out of urgent care or emergency rooms that are not staffed with pediatricians! Call before going to the ER if appropriate!

It is rare for the *physicians* of any practice to answer emergency calls at night - but we do! Our office is also open seven days a week to provide same day sick appointments when you need them. Our plan is to continue to provide our communities with excellent outpatient pediatric care for another sixty years!