

# Maria Parham one of most wired hospitals

BY SARAH MANSUR  
DISPATCH STAFF

Henderson's hospital is advancing with technology — and getting recognized for it.

Maria Parham Medical Center is one of seven North Carolina hospitals or healthcare systems listed among the 2014 Most Wired, according to a survey from Hospitals & Health Networks. The others are Carolinas HealthCare System, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Mission Hospital, Vidant Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health and Womack Army Medical Center.

The annual Most Wired Survey, which is an industry-standard benchmark study, is designed to measure the level of information technology adoption

in U.S. hospitals and health systems. The survey, conducted between Jan. 15 and March 15, asked hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their information technology initiatives.

Respondents completed 680 surveys, representing 1,900 hospitals, or more than 30 percent of all U.S. hospitals.

Maria Parham spokesman David Ruggles said the computerized physician order entry has allowed the hospital to become more efficient and accurate.

"It takes away the human error part," he said. "It also allows the drugs to be transferred directly to pharmacy. CPOE is huge piece of this whole project." Computerized physician

order entry is an electronic process used to input instructions for patient treatment under his or her care. These orders are communicated over a computer network to the medical staff or to the departments — such as pharmacy, laboratory, or radiology — responsible for fulfilling the order.

According to the report, the most wired hospitals lead the way in using information technology to improve quality and patient safety, converting data into usable information for clinical and business decision-making, and integrating services through medical homes and health information exchanges.

The four areas of focus for a hospital to be considered one of health care's

Most Wired are infrastructure, business and administrative management, clinical quality and safety, and clinical integration.

"Our staff has instant access to care plans and educational materials," said Maria Parham Chief Nursing Officer Cindy Faulkner in a press release. "Our physicians write orders online, thus reducing the chance of transcription errors. Safety is also enhanced with the addition of bar-coded medications and patient bracelets. These are just a few of the improved processes that positively impact our ability to provide optimal patient care."

Contact the writer at [smansur@hendersondispatch.com](mailto:smansur@hendersondispatch.com).