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## **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RUTHERFORD REGIONAL AND SMITH'S DRUGS OF FOREST CITY PROVIDES MASTECTOMY SERVICES TO CANCER PATIENTS**

(Rutherford Co.) – Nov. 15, 2011 - A partnership between the Rutherford Regional Cancer Resource Center and Smith's Drugs of Forest City has allowed breast cancer patients the opportunity to purchase mastectomy items closer to home.

Cancer Outreach Program Manager Jamie Ingraham approached Smith's Drugs earlier this year about providing such a service through a partnership.

"We saw our first patient in April," Ingraham said. "Since that time, we have probably seen more than 50 women."

Prior to the partnership, patients had to go outside of the county or online to purchase mastectomy bras and prostheses.

The bras offered through the partnership are American Breast Care products and are designed to discreetly hold a prosthesis, said Wanda Champion, Smith's certified fitter. Being fitted for a prosthesis and bra is important, Champion explained, because as women undergo treatment, their bodies can change.

"You want to be fitted so that the prosthesis is a good match for your existing breast," she said.

Patients are measured and fitted for both the prosthesis and bra at the Cancer Resource Center. A variety of styles are available, from basic to more ornate. Being able to come to a familiar environment helps patients feel more at ease. Reba Cornwell was recently fitted for her prosthesis and bras and said it was nice to be able to have the service close to home was helpful.

"You get so much support at the Cancer Resource Center," Cornwell said. "It really makes you realize you are not going through cancer alone."

Medical insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, will pay the majority – if not all – the cost of bras and prosthesis when a prescription from a doctor is given. Uninsured women are encouraged to come to the Rutherford Regional Cancer Resource Center as a partnership exists with the American Cancer Society to make prostheses and bras available.

To arrange an appointment, call the Cancer Resource Center at 828-245-4596.

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PHOTO: Reba Cornwell, a breast cancer survivor, was recently fitted for a mastectomy bra and prosthesis at the Rutherford Regional Cancer Resource Center by Wanda Champion, a certified fitter with Smith's Drugs. The mastectomy products are being offered through a partnership between the Cancer Resource Center and Smith's.