

# Medicine in the Modern Era

Like many aspects of society the medical field changed drastically after World War Two. Due to technological advances made during the war, and in subsequent wars, as well as a rapidly growing population, medical professionals and the places in which they practiced grew in number and in sophistication. The 1940 census lists six physicians practicing in Onslow County. By 1948 the city of Jacksonville alone had seven practicing physicians, six for white patients and one, Dr. S. H. Montford, for black patients. By 1973 thirty two physicians had practices in the county, and by 2010 Onslow County Memorial Hospital listed one hundred five attending physicians.



Image Courtesy George Swarts

not have known about through the latter half of the twentieth century. New methods of surgery allowed surgeons to bypass blood flow to the heart in order to repair the muscle in open heart surgery. Advances such as these increased the medical care available to Onslow's citizens.

New specialized areas of medicine such as podiatry, psychiatry, and pediatrics provided patients with ever increasing treatments that a general practitioner would

Growing numbers of urgent care practices, general practices, and specialized medical professionals have changed the medical landscape in Onslow County. It is not uncommon to find a medical clinic in a shopping center alongside other shopping establishments.



Another major advancement of the twentieth century occurred with the changing role of Ambulances and the professionalization of EMTs and Paramedics. Prior to 1969 emergency responders were not part of a regulated industry. A 1966 report found that more people died in auto accidents in 1965 than in the Korean War. This led to the standardization of training for rescue squad personnel, later to become Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. Onslow County Emergency Medical Services formed in 1987, emerging out of volunteer ambulance services. Today there are one hundred thirteen staff and eleven ambulances serving the county. Two community paramedics serve a non-emergency role, providing care to citizens who do not have life threatening emergencies.



Photo Courtesy George Swarts