

TO MEDIA

CONTACT PERSON: Robin Jennings
Marketing and Communications
Excelsa Health
724-689-0206 TEL
724-516-4483 CELL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELA HEALTH CANCER PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

GREENSBURG, PA, December 26, 2012 ... The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) once again has granted Three-Year Approval with Commendation to the Cancer Program at Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital.

Approval by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. To maintain approval, facilities with CoC-approved cancer programs must undergo an on-site review every three years.

The approval recognizes the quality of comprehensive patient care and commitment to providing access to all of the various medical specialists involved in diagnosing and treating cancer.

Established in 1922 by the ACoS, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care.

The core functions of the CoC include setting standards for quality, multidisciplinary cancer patient care; surveying facilities to evaluate compliance with the 36 CoC standards; collecting standardized and quality data from approved facilities; and using the data to develop effective educational interventions to improve cancer care outcomes at the national, state and local level.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that more than 1.6 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2012. There are currently more than 1,400

CoC-approved cancer programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing close to 25 percent of all hospitals. This 25 percent of hospitals diagnose and/or treat 80 percent of newly diagnosed cancer patients each year.

Receiving care at a CoC-approved cancer program will ensure that you receive:

- Comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment
- A multispecialty, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options
- Access to cancer-related information, education, and support
- A cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care

And, most importantly,

- Quality care close to home

Through an exclusive partnership with the American Cancer Society, the CoC provides the public with information on the resources, services, and cancer treatment experience for each CoC-approved cancer program. This information is shared with the public on the American Cancer Society's Web site at www.cancer.org and through the American Cancer Society's National Cancer Information Center at 1-800-ACS-2345.

For more information about the Commission on Cancer, visit the Web site at www.facs.org/cancer/index.html .