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PRIVATE ROOMS NOW THE STANDARD AT EXCELA HEALTH

GREENSBURG, PA, March 15, 2014... Patients of Excelsa Health won't have to request a private room when they're hospitalized; it's now the standard of care. As of March 15, all hospital rooms in the health system have been updated for single occupancy.

The privatization of hospital rooms has been under way at Excelsa Health for the past several years. Reconfiguration of the patient care areas began at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital, continued with remodeling at Excelsa Frick Hospital and concluded at Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital this winter with the conversion of the first and second floor progressive care units from double occupancy to single occupancy.

"Private rooms are the norm in new construction," noted Maryann Singley, Vice President of Patient Care Services, Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital. "The concept is wellness oriented and promotes rest and recovery by removing the added distractions of another person sharing the room. Our Family Additions Maternity Center and the critical care units have always been designed for privacy. The medical/surgical floors were not; therefore, we had to balance the desire to renovate with the day-to-day need for hospital beds."

Hospitalization is rarely planned; therefore the stress level is often high among patients. Singley said. "A private room changes the patient's perception of noisiness and busyness, because fewer people enter the room. And those members of the clinical team who do can concentrate fully on the patient in their care."

With staff in many disciplines contributing to a patient's care, the private room setting also allows for greater face-to-face collaboration at the bedside regarding diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

Private rooms also allow for greater flexibility with regard to visitation. "Patients need quiet and rest to make the most of the hospital stay, so it's a balance between having the support of loved ones and knowing when to request time alone," noted Singley.