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EXCELA HEALTH COMPLETES \$2.6 MILLION UPGRADE AT FRICK HOSPITAL CONVERTING TO PRIVATE ROOMS AND EXPANDING CRITICAL CARE

MOUNT PLEASANT, PA, September 27, 2012 ... Excela Health continues to invest in its facilities and services to ensure the highest quality patient care experience. A \$2.6 million renovation is nearing completion at Excela Frick Hospital. Included in the upgrades are private patient rooms, expanded critical care capabilities and enhanced technology for cardiac care. The hospital is also celebrating recent national recognition for care of the heart failure patient, having earned a five-star rating from the American Heart Association for adherence to best practices.

"Investing in our facilities is a vital component of putting patients first," said Robert J. Rogalski, Excela Health's Chief Executive Officer. "Doing so means having long-range plans for capital improvement across the health system and being prudent about how and when we make these upgrades. Our commitment to the Mount Pleasant community is long-standing. Over the last several years, we have upgraded Frick's emergency department, physical therapy and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation areas, and welcomed several new physicians to the Frick medical staff, some of whom are maintaining office space here."

In the area of patient care practices, Excela Frick meets or exceeds a number of nationally set benchmarks demonstrating commitment to delivering safe and quality care. "Frick Hospital has been recognized locally and nationally for the care that we provide to our patients to help to assure that they do well inside of the hospital and can stay healthier outside of the hospital," noted Bill Jenkins, MD, medical director of the Frick Emergency Department and leader of hospital quality improvement

initiatives. "The facility improvements support our clinical practice as we work to improve the health and well-being of every life we touch."

The latest improvements have occurred on the hospital's third floor. The new critical care unit features large private patient rooms and bathrooms, recliners and 32-inch TVs. The public areas on the floor will soon be decorated with local artwork produced by Kim Proud, a member of the Excela Health laboratory staff who lives in the Mt. Pleasant area.

"These 'creature comforts' are very important to the patient and family perception of privacy, comfort and sense that services are modern and up-to-date," explained Lonna Paterline, Vice President, of Patient Care Services at Excela Frick Hospital.

Beyond the facelift in flooring, furnishings and fixtures are upgrades to technology - an enhanced cardiac monitoring system is now in place in both the critical care and progressive care units. "With this equipment caregivers can monitor a patient's heart rhythm and respiratory status from a centralized location," Paterline said. "That means the nursing staff can pick up on any change in a patient's condition more quickly. The new telemetry monitors also are equipped with a screen that shows the patient's EKG tracing in real time. Nurses at the bedside will see at a glance if something is amiss, thereby expediting appropriate response more quickly."

Another benefit of the system is the ability to perform capnography, .which measures a patient's respiratory status and carbon dioxide levels, thus limiting the need to draw arterial blood samples.

The patient beds for critical care are also state of the art, and easily synchronized with the patient's electronic medical record, thanks to their intuitive design. These beds are equipped with pressure relieving air mattresses. The mattress provides a turning feature to gently rotate the patient from side to side to relieve pressure. The mattress also comes with a percussion function that helps break up any congestion that a patient might have.

And should the patient need to be transported for testing, the monitors are portable to move with them, and the bed is motorized to make the trip easier. Finally, each bed comes equipped with a library of songs and soothing sounds to help the

patient relax. And should there be a language barrier, the bed also is programmed with a multi language library, so the nurse can converse with the patient in a way they understand.

"Hospitalization is rarely planned; therefore the stress level is often high among patients." Paterline added. "These improvements will change the environment in which care is delivered and the overall patient experience."

To learn more about Excela Health Frick Hospital, visit www.excelahealth.org.