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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EXCELA HEALTH OFFERS FREE SCREENING FOR LIVER DISEASE**

**GREENSBURG, PA, September 30, 2013** ... Excelsa Health, Giant Eagle and the American Liver Foundation are partnering to offer free screenings to detect a person's risk for liver disease. The screenings, to be held at Excelsa Square at Norwin in October, are simple blood tests to determine the presence of the Hepatitis C virus.

Individuals are at risk for hepatitis C if they are a member of the Baby Boomer generation (born between 1945-1965; have received blood or blood products prior to 1992; inhaled or injected street drugs at any time; have a tattoo or body piercing applied with an unsterile needle; have been exposed to another person's blood through a splash to the eyes, mouth or onto broken skin; are a military veteran; live with someone diagnosed with Hepatitis C.

If left undetected, this chronic infection can lead to scarring of the liver and ultimately to cirrhosis, which can lead to liver failure, liver cancer or other life-threatening illnesses.

Screening participants will be asked to sign a waiver before taking the finger-stick blood test. Results will be available at the time of testing, along with counseling from representatives of the American Liver Foundation. Individuals who test positive for Hepatitis C will be advised not donate blood or sperm or have unprotected sex, and to seek medical treatment.

Screenings will be held 9 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, Oct. 26 and 5 to 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28 in the Community Education Rooms at Excelsa Square. To participate, register with the Excelsa Health Call Center, 1-877-771-1234.