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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH'S HEART SURGERY PROGRAM
RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST BY CONSUMER REPORTS**

GREENSBURG, PA, July 15, 2014 ... Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital is ranked among the nation's best heart hospitals by Consumer Reports in print and online at consumerreports.org.

Known for its data-rich comparisons of products and services to help buyers make an informed choice, Consumer Reports partnered with the Society for Thoracic Surgery (STS) to publish its first ever ratings of hospitals providing heart-surgery based on their performance in the area of heart-bypass operations called coronary artery bypass grafting or CABG, as well as heart valve replacement. Excelsa Health earned a top score for CABG, a surgery performed to open blocked coronary arteries. Previously, Consumer Reports recognized Excelsa's cardiothoracic surgeons based on similar quality metrics tracked by STS.

Using this information, prospective patients can see how hospitals regionally compare with national benchmarks for overall performance, survival, complications and other quality measures. Excelsa Health is one of only six Pennsylvania hospitals to receive this recognition, and the only hospital in western Pennsylvania to make the list.

STS, which presents physicians who operate on the heart and other organs of the chest has collected data for decades. While more than 1,000 hospitals in the United States report to STS, only about 400, including Excelsa Health, agree to make the data public.

John Santa, MD, medical director for Consumer Reports Health, notes in

the August 2014 edition, "All hospitals know this information. Those that have agreed to share ... should be applauded for their commitment to transparency."

"The Society of Thoracic Surgeons' report is the 'gold standard' for evaluation of cardiac surgery programs. Everyone at Excelsa Health is delighted with this national recognition of our cardiac surgery program. It is a well deserved distinction and once again underscores our commitment to providing Westmoreland County with the finest health care services," said Carol J. Fox, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Excelsa Health.

At the heart of Excelsa's cardiac program are Excelsa Health CardioThoracic Surgical Associates, with offices at Medical Commons Two, 540 South Street, Suite 306, Greensburg. Cardiothoracic surgeons Mark M. Suzuki, MD, MBA, FACS and David M. West, MD, are dual board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. Also members of the group are vascular surgeons David Kenney, MD, Anna Gasparyan, MD and Theresa Cole, DO.

To learn more about Excelsa Health's cardiac services visit www.excelahealth.org.