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## **VEINVIEWER HELPS FIND SUITABLE VESSELS FOR PATIENT CARE**

**GREENSBURG, PA, May 28, 2013** ...Having blood taken or an IV started can be traumatic to some patients, especially if the caregiver with the needle has to make several attempts to get things flowing. Fortunately, for Excelsa Health patients at Westmoreland Hospital, an innovative technology helps staff reduce unnecessary needle sticks to patients with a painless solution called the VeinViewer.

Westmoreland Hospital's Laboratory, IV team and Emergency Department have employed the VeinViewer to see patients' veins prior to a needlestick. The technology projects a visual roadmap to the patient's vessels directly onto the surface of the skin using harmless near infrared light and other patented technologies to produce the image.

The portable device is lightweight, easy to carry and comes with multiple accessories including a shoulder bag and a clip so that it can attach to beds or IV poles if necessary.

"It really helps us when we need to draw blood from children or if we can only use one arm of a patient and the veins are small," said Ashley Baughman, a phlebotomist in the Westmoreland Hospital Lab.

Using the near-infrared light along with a digital video camera and an image processing unit to build an image of the patient's vasculature, the VeinViewer projects a small square image of the veins on the patient's skin. The image can be adjusted to

show the veins either dark with a light background or light with a dark background. The device is not sensitive to age, body type or skin tone.

Christie Medical Holdings, Inc. introduced VeinViewer in 2004. Currently, thousands of hospitals and medical facilities in more than 50 countries use the device as it is clinically proven to reduce the number of sticks needed and the amount of time necessary to start an IV by 50 percent. Results from more than 10 clinical studies show that the use of VeinViewer leads to improved peripheral vascular access, cost savings and increased patient satisfaction.

The Westmoreland Hospital Foundation, with a gift from the Employees' Charitable Trust Fund, purchased the VeinViewer devices for Westmoreland Hospital. The program will be expanded to Latrobe Hospital, Frick Hospital, and Excelsa Square at Norwin later this year.

Now, patients can rest easy knowing that the VeinViewer will guide the way to a less traumatic needle experience.