

TO MEDIA:

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**EXCELA HEALTH WOUND CENTER CAREGIVER ADDS
HYPERBARIC CERTIFICATION TO HER CREDENTIALS**

GREENSBURG, PA, May 21, 2013... Ashley Smith, hyperbaric oxygen coordinator in the Excelsa Health Advanced Wound Center, is newly certified as a hyperbaric oxygen technologist (CHT). The credential was awarded following 480 hours of hyperbaric medicine clinical practice as well as the successful completion of a rigorous national examination. Certification comes from the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT). Smith also is a licensed respiratory therapist in the state of Pennsylvania and is a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC). She is credentialed in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) by the American Heart Association.

A hyperbaric oxygen technologist is certified to administer oxygen treatments to persons needing high-oxygen or hyperbaric — high pressure — treatment, whether through a mask or in a hyperbaric chamber. The technician works with medical staff under the supervision of a physician to administer hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT). The foundation of knowledge necessary for a hyperbaric technician to operate a hyperbaric chamber includes a full understanding of gas systems, pulmonary physiology, as well as mathematical calculations and conversion factors, methods of identifying and testing for gas impurities, requirements for the calibration of gas equipment, and the reporting of medical data. Evidence based medicine clearly outlines the importance of incorporating HBOT into the

treatment regime of various wound types including diabetic foot ulcers, osteomyelitis, and osteoradionecrosis. HBOT is used daily in the Advanced Wound Center at Excela Health and contributes towards achieving excellent healing rates for patients.

Excela's Advanced Wound Center is located on the Westmoreland Hospital campus in Medical Commons One. The center features three hyperbaric chambers as well as eight exam rooms. To learn more about hyperbaric wound care, visit www.excelahealth.org.