

CONTACT PERSON: Jennifer Miele
Vice President, Marketing and Communications
Excela Health
CELL: 724-672-0605
E:MAIL: jmiele@excelahealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photo: Interventional cardiologist James Lynch, MD

**RADIAL CATHETERIZATION OFFERS PATIENTS BETTER OPTION;
PROCEDURE AMONG THOSE AVAILABLE AT EXCELA HEALTH**

GREENSBURG, PA, March 1, 2012 ... Cardiac catheterization is a way for doctors to determine how well a person's heart is functioning, including whether there are any blocked arteries. Typically the procedure is performed using the femoral artery (in the leg). At Excela Health, interventional cardiologists in The Heart Center are also utilizing the radial artery, found in the underside of the wrist.

Excela Health interventional cardiologist James Lynch, MD, noted the benefits of the transradial approach. "The two main advantages are decreased incidence of bleeding and increased patient comfort. Instead of lying flat for two to six hours following the traditional procedure, the patient can sit up straight and eat immediately following the radial catheterization."

There are more than one million cardiac catheterizations performed in the United States each year. To date, only 5 percent to 10 percent are done radially, although it is widely popular in Europe, noted Dr. Lynch, who says there are only a few circumstances in which it would not be the appropriate choice for the patient. "The femoral approach is employed principally out of physician habit. Most physicians in the U.S. who perform diagnostic and interventional cardiac procedures today were trained in this method so it's the method they are most comfort with."

The cardiac catheterization laboratory at Excela Health is recognized by the Accreditation for Cardiovascular Excellence (ACE) program. ACE accreditation recognizes the commitment of clinicians and staff to quality

assurance, peer review and use of evidence-based guidelines. ACE is sponsored by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions and the American College of Cardiology Foundation, the two leading professional cardiovascular organizations, jointly representing more than 40,000 practitioners.

To watch a video in which Dr. Lynch demonstrates the radial approach for catheterization, visit www.excelahealth.org. For a physician referral contact the Excelsa Health Call Center, 1-877-771-1234..