

TO MEDIA:

CONTACT PERSON: Robin Jennings

Director, Communications

Excelsa Health

724-837-1781 TEL

724-516-4483 CELL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH ANNOUNCES MEDICAL DIRECTOR
FOR NEW JEANNETTE QUIKCARE**

GREENSBURG, PA, March 1, 2010 ... Excelsa Health has named Susan G. Painter, DO, as the medical director of the new Jeannette QuikCare opening at Westmoreland Hospital's Jeannette campus March 15.

The urgent care center, the fourth to be operated by Excelsa Health Physician Practices, will be located in space occupied by emergency services which will be consolidated at Westmoreland's Greensburg campus. QuikCare is part of Excelsa Health's new focus on outpatient services in the Jeannette community.

Dr. Painter brings a wealth of emergency department and urgent care experience to this new position. Most recently, she served as a staff emergency department physician at Jeannette. Previous work includes stints at Geauga Hospital in Chardon, OH and Morgan County War Memorial Hospital, Berkeley Springs, WV. She also has diverse community experience working as both a part-time and full-time emergency staff physician in hospitals across western Pennsylvania as well as urgent care centers in Westmoreland County.

A graduate of Gannon University, she received her medical degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Post graduate training includes a transitional internship at Shenango Valley Osteopathic Hospital, Farrell, PA, an internal medicine residency at McKeesport Hospital and a geriatric fellowship at Case Western Reserve University Hospital, Cleveland, OH.

Dr. Painter was honored by “Who’s Who Among Rising Americans” and belongs to the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Society and the American Osteopathic Association.

Joining Dr. Painter in staffing Jeannette’s QuikCare are Excela Health family medicine physicians and physician assistants Stephanie Christian, PA-C and Tara Meyer, PA-C.

Jeannette QuikCare, the latest addition to Excela Health’s growing urgent care network, joins sites in Blairsville, Derry and Delmont, and is the first to serve the Jeannette community and western Westmoreland County.

QuikCare is a patient-friendly, urgent care alternative for conditions that are not medical emergencies, offering extended hours and convenient access to diagnostic testing. Excela’s urgent care centers focus on non-emergent problems like bumps, bruises, aches, pains, ankle sprains, moderate lacerations, and the like on a walk-in basis without a scheduled appointment. Many sites are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily and offer immediate referrals to Excela Health specialists. Most insurances are accepted and the sites feature private treatment and examinations rooms and access to lab work x-rays and more.

“QuikCares do not replace primary care physicians,” stressed Dr. Painter. “Rather, they are a complement to busy physician practices for times when the physician may be unavailable. We will be working very closely with the patients’ primary care doctor to keep them informed in anticipation of the next regular office visit with their doctor, and we will be helping patients without a primary care physician find one for continuing care.”

Urgent care centers provide significant savings to patients and insurers over a visit to a hospital emergency department for episodic care that cannot be delayed until an appointment at a physician office is available. In addition, their scope of treatment is more extensive than retail clinics, minimizing patient inconvenience and the likelihood of transfer to a higher level of care.

Urgent care centers are also viewed as a time saver, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting the wait time in a hospital emergency

department currently averages 3.2 hours for non life-threatening medical needs, which could have treated in an urgent care center in less than one hour.

With an extensive background in emergency care, Dr. Painter is intimately aware of the demands faced by emergency departments.

“The QuikCare concept is meant to ease the burden of emergency departments so they can focus on what they do best – care for patients with truly emergent or critical needs.”

Beyond QuikCare, Excelsa's Jeannette campus will provide same day service for most diagnostic testing, including laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, CT and cardiac diagnostics. Nearby, Norwin Medical Commons offers surgery, therapy, cardiac rehabilitation and sports medicine in addition to diagnostic testing.

For a complete listing of Excelsa Health's QuikCare locations, hours of operation and services, visit www.excelsahealth.org.