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**EXCELA HEALTH UPGRADE INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY SUITE  
AT WESTMORELAND HOSPITAL**

**GREENSBURG, PA, March 5, 2010 ...** Excelsa Health continues its investment in technology to improve patient service by upgrading Westmoreland Hospital's Interventional Radiology suite. The \$1.5 million upgrade includes the most advanced in imaging system technology as well as an added patient care area. This upgrade enhances services across the health system with interventional radiology available at Latrobe and Westmoreland hospitals.

The new imaging system opens the door to advanced interventions with cutting edge image quality, efficiency and clinical performance. With an open architecture and a focus on integration support, the system also features a flexible flat screen detector system that can handle the full spectrum of interventional radiology procedures.

"This new technology provides greater imaging capabilities for interventional radiologists, improving reliability, visual acuity and enhanced imaging and contributes to patient safety," described Interventional radiologist, Todd Hrbek, MD.

Similar to an HDTV, the flat screen technology offers virtually distortion-free visualization for vascular interventions allowing the interventional radiologists to see the finest of details, which ensures better patient outcomes.

"The system also features 3-D imaging guidance, which lets us work through the tiniest of vessels and provides extra insight for complex procedures and tracking as we go. We can see exactly where we need to go with the catheter. Before, images were only two dimensional giving us a limited view," noted Dr. Hrbek. "Because the new device also rotates, we are able to see from

more angles than before, which means greater flexibility especially when we need to make complex positioning movements during vascular interventions.”

For patients, the new technology facilitates a minimally invasive procedure that can be accomplished more quickly and efficiently. It also means reduced wait times and smaller incisions, the latter contributing to less pain.

In addition to the new equipment, a patient care area has been added to the suite. Here, up to three patients can be prepped for or recover from their procedure. Certain less complicated procedures also can be done in the patient care area freeing up the suite for more complicated procedures.

“This new area tremendously impacts our process,” explained Linda Decker, manager, imaging services. “The former IR Suite did not have a patient care area and prep, procedure and recovery all occurred in the IR suite. This meant that patients had a longer wait because everything occurred in one room. Now, the interventional radiology suite is designated for procedures only.”

According to Dr. Hrbek, the remodeled suite shaves up to three hours off a typical day of cases.

Interventional radiologists are physicians board-certified in Vascular and Interventional Radiology, and Diagnostic Radiology. Physicians use X-rays, MRI and other imaging to advance a catheter in the body, usually in an artery, to treat at the source of the disease non-surgically offering less risk, less pain and less recovery time compared to open surgery. Interventional radiology is one of the least invasive treatments available.

Interventional radiologists do a myriad of procedures. Some of the more common include pain management through vertebroplasty or kyphoplasty, ultrasound-guided breast biopsy, varicose vein treatments, vascular access procedures, liver biopsies and more.

For information on interventional radiology services or for a physician referral, contact the Excelsa Health Call Center, toll free, 1-877-771-1234 or visit our web site, [www.excelsahealth.org](http://www.excelsahealth.org) and click on Find a Physician.