

TO MEDIA:

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**EXCELA HEALTH CONTINUES PROMOTING SAFE DISPOSAL
OF UNUSED MEDICATION**

GREENSBURG, Pa., JULY 12, 2018 ... Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital is the latest community location for the safe, secure disposal of unused medications. A MedSafe receptacle is now available in the main lobby on the hospital's first floor. A similar container was placed at Excelsa Latrobe Hospital in April. The health system hopes to roll out the program to Excelsa Frick Hospital in the upcoming months.

The secure dropbox is under constant surveillance and emptied periodically by authorized health system personnel for processing of its contents. MedSafe collection boxes provide an opportunity for individuals to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. Similar containers exist at area police stations.

"Consumers and caregivers should remove expired, unwanted or unused medicines from their home as quickly as possible to help reduce the chance that others accidentally take or intentionally misuse the unneeded medicine," said Dean Matanin, Excelsa Health Director of Pharmacy. "Excelsa Health is helping to address a crucial public safety and public health issue."

Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply.

"Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment," added Matanin.

Acceptable items for disposal include controlled, noncontrolled and over-the-counter pills, tablets, capsules, ointments, creams, lotions, powders and liquid medicines of no more than 4 ounces.