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**PATIENT EXPERIENCE AT EXCELA HEALTH  
AFFIRMS POSITIVE CARECHEX® RATINGS**

**GREENSBURG, Pa., July 17, 2018** ... When it comes to elective surgery, patients know they have a choice of provider and are doing their homework before committing to a surgeon or a hospital for care. Internet research yields an abundance of data regarding the vast differences in quality of care and patient experience among health care organizations.

Excelsa Health and its member hospitals have been ranked among the nation's best in 2018 by CareChex®, including number-one hospital in the market for major orthopedic surgery and top 10 percent in the Northeast for joint replacement surgery.

CareChex is an information service of Quantros, Inc. CareChex provides clinical, financial, and patient satisfaction findings to consumers, providers and purchasers of U.S. medical care and provides a comprehensive evaluation of inpatient hospital quality performance using a variety of outcomes of care measures, expressed as a composite quality score.

Tay Waltenbaugh had no second thoughts about where he would have knee replacement, and the exemplary CareChex ratings of Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital only affirmed his decision. Waltenbaugh, chief executive officer at Westmoreland Community Action, underwent bilateral joint replacement surgery late last fall with Excelsa orthopedic surgeon Gregory Bisignani, MD.

Waltenbaugh is a former basketball player and an active outdoorsman, businessman and grandfather. The opportunity for a dual knee replacement allowed him to recover more quickly than if he had each surgery performed separately.

Generally, orthopedic surgeons repair one knee at a time, allowing the patient the opportunity to heal, rehabilitate and gain strength before undergoing the second surgery. However, Waltenbaugh was mentally and physically prepared for the dual knee replacement.

Waltenbaugh was not surprised that Excelsa Health is ranked first in medical excellence for major orthopedic surgery by CareChex®, based on his positive hospital experience.

“I think everything is easy, but it’s not,” Waltenbaugh said. “Excelsa Health made it easy.”

Waltenbaugh was experiencing severe pain in his arthritic knees before deciding to have joint replacement surgery in order to continue his active lifestyle. Given Waltenbaugh’s excellent physical condition at age 63, Bisignani was able to perform bilateral knee replacements.

Waltenbaugh credits Excelsa Health’s pre-surgery education for establishing clear expectations and goals for a successful operation and recovery afterward. And even though he thought he was prepared, “I had a lot to learn about self-care, pain management post-op, and home modifications to accommodate my physical therapy follow-up,” Waltenbaugh said.

The Excelsa Health system released a video titled “A Knee is For More Than Walking” featuring Waltenbaugh on July 1, 2018. A shortened version will air as a commercial on local television stations and the full video along with an article can be found on Excelsa Health’s website.

For Waltenbaugh, knees are made for more than walking. As a grandfather, outdoorsman and business CEO, his knees will continue to carry him through every step he takes each day, thanks to Excelsa Health’s orthopedic and rehabilitation programs.

For more information on Excelsa Health’s orthopedic and sports medicine programs, visit [www.excelahealth.org](http://www.excelahealth.org) and search “knee” to find Waltenbaugh’s story and related articles, doctors and Excelsa Health locations.