



For Immediate Release  
January 22, 2007

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## **Christiana Care performs Delaware's first adult kidney transplant**

**Wilmington, DE** – It didn't take long for Christiana Care's new renal transplant program launched in September to make history. Last week, Chief of Transplant Surgery S. John Swanson III, M.D., and his team successfully performed the first adult kidney transplant in Delaware. Now, patients with chronic kidney failure no longer have to travel to Philadelphia or Baltimore for this potentially life-saving treatment.

"This is a major milestone in our efforts to bring renal transplants closer to home for patients in Delaware and surrounding communities," says Department of Surgery Chairman Michael Rhodes, M.D. "By offering transplant surgery right here in our own institution, we are not only making this important treatment more accessible to patients, but we are raising public awareness to enlarge the donor registry and improve the chances of finding a suitable donor for those on the waiting list."

Christiana Care and Nephrology Associates, PA, have been preparing for the first transplant procedure for months. Dr. Swanson, who was chief of the Organ Transplant Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for 12 years, joined Christiana Care in July. Soon afterwards, Transplant Nephrologist Stephanie Gilibert, M.D., who recently joined Nephrology Associates, PA, became medical director.

The team includes transplant nurses, technicians, social workers, a dietician and a financial coordinator. So far, 50 patients have been scheduled for evaluation and already 10 have been added to the waiting list for a kidney transplant. The team anticipates performing between 25 and 30 transplant operations this year.

Christiana Care is one of only 250 hospitals performing kidney transplants in the U.S. In Delaware, A.I. du Pont Hospital for Children offers kidney and liver transplants for children. Donated kidneys



can be kept on ice, but must be transplanted within 36 hours to remain viable. Until now, potential recipients in Delaware would have had to travel an hour or more on short notice to the closest transplant center when a kidney became available.

**Note to Editors:** Dr. John Swanson – who performed the transplant – is available for interviews.

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#### About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System, which dates back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring areas of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, transitional care services, preventive medicine and rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physician offices and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Christiana Care provided \$ 32.4 million of charity care last year.