



Corporate Services Center  
1077 Gorge Blvd.  
Akron, OH 44310

Phone (330) 375-3000

**For immediate release**

**Contact:** Jim Gosky  
Public Relations  
Summa Health  
(234) 312-5052  
[goskyj@summahealth.org](mailto:goskyj@summahealth.org)

### **Summa Health Offering New Heart Failure Monitoring Solution**

**AKRON, Ohio**, July 27, 2015 – Summa Health is continuing its leading-edge cardiovascular care with the recent introduction of the “CardioMEMS™” System, the nation’s first and only FDA-approved heart failure monitor proven to significantly reduce readmissions and improve quality of life for many heart failure patients.

CardioMEMS is a tiny, wireless monitoring sensor that is implanted in the pulmonary artery (PA) during a non-surgical procedure to directly measure PA pressure. Increased PA pressures appear before weight and blood pressure changes, which are often used as indirect measures of worsening heart failure. The new system allows patients to transmit daily sensor readings from their homes to their Summa healthcare providers, which allows for personalized and proactive management and also reduces the likelihood of hospitalization. To date, Summa Health has performed the procedure on four patients.

“The CardioMEMS technology is safe, reliable and clinically proven to reduce heart failure admissions,” said Dr. Joseph Redle, a Summa Health cardiovascular specialist who performed the procedures over the past few weeks. “Summa is proud to be the first hospital in this region to offer such an innovative option for those with heart failure. This can truly improve their quality of life.”

Heart failure occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body’s demands. have heart failure, with 670,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Patients with heart failure are frequently hospitalized, have a reduced quality of life and face a higher risk of death.

The CardioMEMS sensor is designed to last the lifetime of the patient and does not require batteries. Once implanted via a minimally invasive procedure, the wireless sensor sends pressure readings to an external patient electronic system. There is no pain or sensation for the patient during the readings. The CardioMEMS System allows the patients to transmit critical information about their heart failure status to Summa clinicians on a regular basis, without the need for additional clinic or hospital visits. This provides healthcare providers with the ability to detect worsening heart failure sooner and adjust treatment to reduce the likelihood that the patient will need to be hospitalized.

[summahealth.org](http://summahealth.org)

*-more-*

Millions of Americans suffer from heart failure. Even with patients self-monitoring body weight and blood pressure, 25 percent of heart failure patients are readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of a hospital admission, and half of heart failure patients are readmitted within six months. According to the American Heart Association, the estimated direct and indirect cost of heart failure in the U.S. for 2012 was \$31 billion and that number is expected to more than double by 2030.

The CardioMEMS HF System, from global medical device manufacturer St. Jude Medical, is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for commercial use in the U.S. For more information, visit <http://www.heartfailureanswers.com/>.

For additional information, please call Summa's Heart Failure Clinic, (330) 375-3211.

#### **About Summa Health**

Summa Health is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery systems in Ohio and is one of only two health systems in northeast Ohio accredited by the American College of Radiation. Encompassing a network of hospitals, community health centers, a health plan, a physician-hospital organization, a multi-specialty physician organization, research and the Summa Foundation, Summa is nationally renowned for excellence in patient care and for exceptional approaches to healthcare delivery. Summa's clinical services are consistently recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (Magnet status), *U.S. News and World Report*, Thomson Reuters and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit [www.summahealth.org](http://www.summahealth.org) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/summahealth](http://www.facebook.com/summahealth) and Twitter, [www.twitter.com/summahealth](http://www.twitter.com/summahealth).