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### WHEELER MAN FIRST TO BENEFIT FROM NEW HEART TECHNOLOGY

TUPELO, Miss.—Russell Glenn of Wheeler recently became the first patient to benefit from new heart technology at North Mississippi Medical Center.

Doctors used the new Impella cardiac assist device to keep blood flowing through Russell's poorly performing heart during his cardiac catheterization procedure April 15. The Impella is a powerful pump that replicates the heart's natural function, continuously uploading the left ventricle and propelling blood into the ascending aorta.

At age 63, Glenn suffered his fourth heart attack on Dec. 18, 2009. A cardiac catheterization procedure revealed the culprit: of four arteries to the heart, two were completely blocked and a third had significant blockage. Cardiologist Barry Bertolet, M.D., referred him to cardiothoracic surgeon Vishal Sachdev, M.D. for open heart surgery. Unfortunately, he wasn't physically able to withstand it.

Dr. Sachdev said tests found a tumor on Glenn's right kidney and that his kidneys had begun shutting down after this last heart attack. Previously diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema, Glenn's lung function was also too weak for him to survive surgery. A second opinion from a cardiothoracic surgeon at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Hospital confirmed the grim prognosis.

But in April, things began looking up for the Glenns when Dr. Bertolet's office called to let them know NMMC had acquired the new Impella technology. "For someone like Mr. Glenn with poor heart function, the Impella helps support the heart during angioplasty," explained Dr. Bertolet, referring to the procedure where cardiologists use a balloon to inflate a blocked artery and insert a stent to keep it propped open.

"Through the patient's groin, we insert a catheter, which is like a short straw with this miniaturized heart pump attached to the end," he said. "One end goes in the left ventricle and the other end goes into the ascending aorta, with a motor located in the middle. The Impella basically sucks blood in one end and blows it out the other end."

The results were phenomenal. "Russell had an MRI of his heart in December, and they said his heart muscles just looked dead," said Betty Glenn, the patient's wife. "After

the stents were put in, his heart immediately picked up. The heart muscles that had looked dead revived as soon as blood got to them.”

Before the Impella technology was introduced, doctors relied on balloon pumps during risky catheterization procedures. “A balloon pump produces a much lower blood volume—only 1.8 liters per minute versus 5 liters per minute with the Impella,” Dr. Bertolet said. The higher volume increases blood perfusion to the heart and other organs.

While some patients may need to keep the Impella in place longer, in Glenn’s case Dr. Bertolet was able to remove it after the stents were placed. “We used it to support Mr. Glenn’s heart during the procedure,” Dr. Bertolet said, “but we weaned him off it slowly and then took it out.”

After an overnight stay, Glenn was discharged home with three heart stents and only a small puncture wound. He claims his heart hasn’t felt this good in 10 years.

“Dr. Bertolet gave us hope,” Glenn said. “After the heart attack in December they basically said there’s nothing we can do.”

“The doctors said he only had about a 10 percent chance of surviving open heart surgery then,” Betty Glenn added. “To come from that point to this point is wonderful.”

At NMMC, Impella technology can be used by interventional cardiologists in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and by cardiothoracic surgeons in the operating room. Outside Tupelo, the only facilities in Mississippi using Impella technology are located in Southaven and Jackson.

For more information about services available through NMMC’s Heart Institute, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

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Cutlines:

Dr. Barry Bertolet (second from right) introduces the Impella technology during Russell Glenn's heart catheterization procedure April 15 at North Mississippi Medical Center.

Betty and Russell Glenn of Wheeler are thankful that Impella technology is now available at North Mississippi Medical Center.