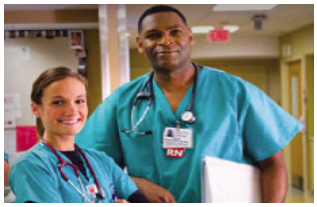
Clarian Health Partners

Midwest's Premiere Health System Creates Robust Wireless Mobility to Improve Patient Care



With the mission of improving the health of patients and the community through innovation and excellence in care, education, research and service, Clarian Health Partners has embraced wireless technologies. Having already experienced the "virtual phone booth" phenomenon in one facility, where cellular services only worked in an extremely limited 4x4 foot area, Clarian decided that future facilities would incorporate a state-of-the-art wireless infrastructure.

With the construction of the new 500,000 square foot Clarian North building, the Clarian team made the committment to ensure facility-wide support for wireless services and applications. As Clarian evaluated their current and future wireless requirements, they knew they had a challenge on their hands.

The Clarian North facility would need a robust Wi-Fi solution capable of delivering the strong coverage required by their Vocera Voice-over-WLAN service and for supporting an assortment of Electronic Patient Record applications. With its large, mobile populations of physicians, patients and visitors, Clarian needed to ensure coverage for cellular voice and data services from a variety of wireless operators. Clarian also needed to consider future potential applications such as wireless medical telemetry, RFID and two-way radio.

As construction of the facility moved forward, Rich Johnson, Chief Information Officer at Clarian Health Parters, understood the need to get it right the first time. Installing a wireless infrastructure during hospital construction is relatively painless; having to retouch it once the hospital is operational would be highly disruptive. The cumbersome infection control procedures associated with subsequent physical alterations to the system would be costly and would degrade productivity and the quality of patient care. Clarian needed a wireless platform that could readily adapt to changing and uncertain requirements.

The Solution

To assist in this endeavor, Johnson engaged Stratum Broadband, a consultancy associated with IBM, to evaluate alternatives and recommend a wireless infrastructure solution for the Clarian North facility. After an exhaustive process, Stratum Broadband concluded that the MobileAccess Universal Wireless Network was best suited to support the diverse array of wireless medical applications that Clarian sought to deploy.

The Company

In 1997, Clarian Health Partners was formed from Indiana University and Riley Hospitals. Clarian Health Partners is Indiana's largest, most comprehensive health center and one of the premiere hospital systems in the United States.

Challenges

- New facility required state-of-art, adaptable wireless infrastructure
- Robust Wi-Fi support for Vocera and EPR applications
- Facility-wide coverage for cellular services from multiple operators
- Ability to add or change services without disrupting hospital operations

Benefits

- Wireless services can be easily added to the infrastructure, when and where needed
- Support for advanced Wi-Fi features and applications
- Intelligent elements enable non-disruptive adjustments
- End-to-end network monitoring and management

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Making Wireless an Indoor State of Mind

The MobileAccess solution distinguished itself in aspects crucial to the Clarian North effort. The Universal Wireless Network offered simultaneous support for a broad array of services including Wi-Fi, cellular, paging and two-way radio. Unlike other approaches, the MobileAccess system is constructed with intelligent, modular elements so that most changes can be made electronically rather than physically. For Clarian, this meant that they could expand their wireless topology or add new services without disrupting the deployed system.

Stratum and Clarian were both impressed with the Wi-Fi capabilities of the MobileAccess Universal Wireless Network platform. For Clarian, with its significant investment in Cisco wireless equipment and growing dependency on Vocera's Voice-over WLAN service, robust Wi-Fi support was paramount. The MobileAccess solution, with its ability to replicate "APs on the ceiling" behavior, not only delivers the strong signal coverage required by the Vocera service, but also provides transparent support for Cisco's advanced AP features and applications.

In the final analysis, Clarian's Rich Johnson selected the MobileAccess Universal Wireless Network to provide the hospital with a future-proof communications platform. The MobileAccess Wire-It-Once™ deployment architecture gives Clarian the flexibility to add new services at any time wihtout disrupting the cabling or antenna infrastructure, a key benefit for hospitals where contamination and containment procedures are critically important.

About MobileAccess

MobileAccess Networks is an enterprise wireless innovator that provides a universal platform for connecting the people and applications that drive business. The company's intelligent, in-building infrastructure solution is the key to mainstream wireless connectivity in hospitals, office buildings, public venues and other large-scale facilities. The MobileAccess Universal Wireless Network delivers business-quality performance, scalability, security and signal reliability to more than 1000 customers, including Aladdin Resort and Casino, ALLTEL Stadium, American University, Clarian Health Partners, Hearst Corporation, Lehman Brothers, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Oakland International Airport, SeaMobile and The Homer Building. For more information, visit www.mobileaccess.com.

"For Clarian North, the MobileAccess solution is the platform from which we will implement and manage the wireless technologies needed to fulfill our mission of improving the health of our patients and community."

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