

» District Hospitals Eastern Allgäu Region – St. Josef Hospital Buchloe «



Founded 50 years ago in Buchloe and today part of the District Hospitals Eastern Allgäu Region, St. Josef Hospital with its 120 beds and some 200 employees provides basic medical care in the area. In addition to two surgery divisions, the hospital also has departments of internal medicine and anesthetics. An orthopedic competence center and a department of gynecology are also affiliated with the hospital as departments with attending doctors. As part of the replacement of the communications equipment – telephones, televisions and radios – the decision was also made to introduce an area-wide Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) in Buchloe. The central control intelligence HiPath Wireless Controller, which Siemens developed specifically for hospital deployment, ensures continuous data communication.

The task. To improve internal communication between nursing staff, doctors and laboratory, and to make sure that current information can always be provided during the doctors' rounds, St. Josef Hospital was looking for a network technology that could easily meet these requirements. The standard method previously was to fill everything out manually during the daily doctor's round and afterwards to laboriously enter the data in the PC. This was not only a tremendous strain in terms of time and money, but was also prone to mistakes. In addition the new solution was to provide patients with trouble-free and convenient access to the Internet, therefore improving the attractiveness of the hospital.

Reference projects with HiPath
WLAN solution: Modern network technology for patients and doctors

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The solution. As part of the migration of the existing Siemens telephone system to a HiPath 4000 system, the sales organization of Siemens AG installed an area-wide Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) at St. Josef Hospital. Radiation from this wireless technology is only one-third of that from commercial cordless telephones. All five stations at St. Josef Hospital have a mobile cart for doctors' rounds which is equipped with Lifebooks from Fujitsu Siemens Computers. To make sure doctors are never in an area without reception for their mini-computers during their rounds and never lose contact with the central server and its Electronic Health Record, a completely novel solution for hospitals was developed. This radio system with central control intelligence – the HiPath Wireless Controller – ensures that the so-called handover between the individual radio cells takes place smoothly. This because occasional brief interruptions of the connection during a change of location, which can happen with standard WLAN access points, should be strictly avoided in a sensitive hospital environment – so important medical data doesn't get lost and doctors lose no time when they are with a patient.

The benefits. Wireless access to the Internet at the patient's bedside, which facilitates the patient's stay in hospital and provides uninterrupted contact with the outside world, is a large benefit of this solution. Primarily however the new wireless technology optimizes internal communication between doctors and nursing staff, as well as lab and X-ray assistants. "With the help of modern communication methods, work can be speedy and transparent, and unnecessary travel and search times are eliminated," says Katja Maria Bittner, administrative director of St. Josef Hospital. At any time during their rounds, the doctors now have fast access to the Electronic Health Record with all the diagnoses, case histories and notes on the treatment progress it contains. According to Katja Maria Bittner, "this guarantees that everyone involved in the clinical process can work with new information, which reduces not only costs but also the processes' susceptibility to mistakes". In addition it should also soon be possible to integrate the results of imaging methods – such as X-ray pictures – into the system and therefore explain to patients even better than previously their clinical picture and possible treatment methods. "There is a large number of additional benefits, such as recording the choice of meals via WLAN end devices right by the patient's bedside, that are convenient side benefits of wireless transmission," says the head of the Eastern Allgäu Region Hospital.

Our offer.

- Development of the concept and installation of a Wireless Local Area Network for the improvement of medical processes by providing safe access to current data from the hospital's information system and giving all patients Internet access
- Mobile real-time integration into the databases of the hospital's information system
- Special HiPath Wireless Controller for the hospital grounds to ensure smooth handover between the radio WLAN infrastructure for additional applications, such as mobile menu orders and voice communication



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“Every doctor should be able to focus on his or her patients, because up-to-date information generates trust between patient and doctor.”

Katja Maria Bittner,
Administrative Director of Eastern Allgäu Region Hospitals

