



» Marianne Strauss Clinic Treatment Center «

The Marianne Strauss Clinic at Lake Starnberg, founded in 1984, combines outpatient care, a day clinic, an acute care clinic and a nursing home under one roof. Furthermore, as a competence center for multiple sclerosis, the facility enjoys an outstanding reputation among patients, physicians, therapists and nursing personnel throughout Germany. Through a variety of different, individually applied forms of therapy, the medical and nursing team has succeeded – in more than 20,000 cases – in slowing the progress of the disease as much as possible, and in combating the symptoms, therefore achieving a noticeable improvement in the patients' quality of life. Thanks to the deployment of a wireless local area network (WLAN) throughout the clinic, physicians can now call up and immediately update diagnoses, patient histories, lab results, instructions and reports on treatment progress online during their rounds, right at the patient's bedside. Patients also have the opportunity to use this infrastructure to surf the Internet right from their hospital bed.

The task. As many patients in the Marianne Strauss Clinic stay substantially longer than is average for acute care hospitals (18–20 days), and as they don't want to lose contact with the outside world during that time just because they happen to be in the hospital, the administrative director, Dr. Birgit Sälzer searched for a way to provide convenient access to the World Wide Web and e-mail communication right at the patient's bed. At the same time, access to the Electronic Health Record via this infrastructure was designed to enable the medical and therapeutic personnel to speed up their communication substantially and help save costs. The existing method for a doctor's round, writing everything down on paper and tediously transferring it to the clinic's information system later, had become completely outmoded. The new solution was designed to reduce the associated unavoidable wait times for patients – an ever-greater problem in clinics.

Reference projects with HiPath

WLAN Solution: Electronic Health Record and Internet at the hospital bed

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WLAN Solution: Electronic Health Record and Internet at the hospital bed

The solution. In close collaboration with Michael Schulz of Computer A&O GmbH in Pöcking, which provides the clinic with 24-hour on-site service as IT service provider, the sales organization of Siemens AG deployed a wireless local area network (WLAN) throughout the Marianne Strauss Clinic. The radiation exposure resulting from this radio technology is far below the threshold values permissible for a clinic. To make sure that the physicians' mini-computers do not lose signal during their rounds and therefore contact with the central server and the Electronic Health Record, a completely new kind of solution was developed especially for clinics. This radio communications system with its intelligent central control unit – the HiPath Wireless Controller – ensures that the so-called "handover" between the individual wireless cells functions smoothly, in contrast to conventional WLAN access points, in which the handover of the connection can be interrupted briefly during a change of location. In the sensitive hospital environment this could have fatal consequences – for instance, if important medical data were to be lost.

The benefits. In addition to providing wireless access to the Internet right at the bedside, which makes the patient's stay in the clinic more pleasant and helps them keep in contact with for instance, their employer, the deployment of the new radio technology in the Marianne Strauss Clinic also shortens waiting times for patients. During their rounds, physicians always have fast access to the Electronic Health Record with all the diagnoses, patient histories, (lab) results, instructions and notes on the progress of treatment. "The speed at which information is exchanged has risen by more than 30 percent thanks to this technology – that not only cuts costs, but also helps patients, because they no longer have to wait while all the specialist doctors and nursing staff involved in their medical care are brought up to date," says Administrative Director Dr. Birgit Sälzer. By setting up this specific HiPath wireless LAN infrastructure, the handover of the connection among the individual wireless cells now functions smoothly when personnel move to different locations. This improves security and prevents important data from being lost. As Dr. Sälzer puts it, "The fact that the provision of Internet services to the patients has a positive financial side effect for the clinic is an added attraction of this investment."

Our offer.

- Conception and construction of a wireless local area network to improve medical processes through secure access to up-to-date data from the clinical information system and for the provision of Internet access for every patient
- Mobile real-time connection to the databases of the clinical information system
- Special HiPath Wireless Controller for the clinic area, to ensure a smooth handover between the wireless cells
- Special radio transmissions for the use of the WLAN infrastructure for additional applications, such as mobile menu ordering and voice communication

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Dr. Birgit Sälzer
Administrative Director
Marianne Strauss Clinic Treatment Center



MARIANNE-STRAUSS-KLINIK
am Starnberger See

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Hofmannstr. 51 • D-81359 München

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