

Delivering Smarter, More Effective Healthcare

Wireless solution enables University Clinic Golnik to improve efficiency and quality of medical services in Slovenia.



Case Study

Customer Name: University Clinic Golnik

Industry: Healthcare

Location: Slovenia

Number of Employees: 500

Business Impact

- Medical information available at point of need, anytime, anywhere
- Increased efficiency of medical staff
- Platform re-useable to enable future improvements

Challenge

University Clinic Golnik is one of Slovenia's leading clinical, pedagogic, and research institutions, specializing in the treatment of asthma, lung cancer, tuberculosis, asbestosis, and other rare pulmonary diseases. The public hospital comprises seven wards, 200 beds, and several outpatient units. It is also a training center for medical students attending neighboring Ljubljana University.

Staying at the forefront of modern healthcare is one of the University Clinic Golnik's most important strategic objectives.

This focus on continually innovating the way that it diagnoses, treats, and cares for patients has paved the way for transformation: both in the physical sense as evidenced by recent building refurbishments; and behind the scenes by moving from time-consuming, paper-based practices to digitized processes and streamlined workflows. As part of this evolution, the hospital has introduced electronic patient records (EPR) and a picture archiving and communications system (PACS).

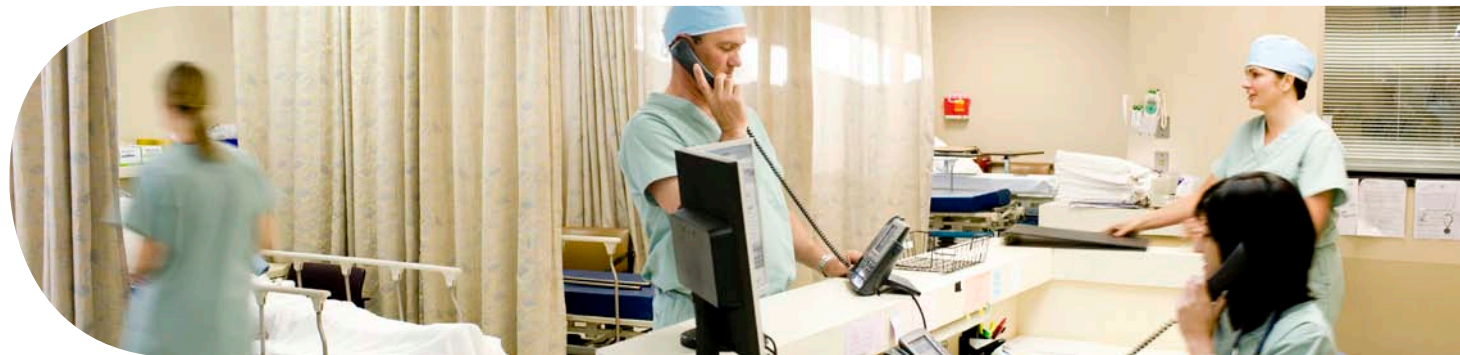
The latest phase of the hospital's strategy has seen it pioneer a new approach once more with a bold and ambitious plan, the aim of which was to use mobility technologies to deliver medical services more effectively and intelligently.

This was not a case of simply replicating an enterprise-class wireless LAN (WLAN) deployment. In a clinical setting where every second counts, University Clinic Golnik needed total confidence that the solution implemented would provide campuswide coverage, exceptional levels of availability, and easy integration with healthcare applications, now and in the future. Therefore selecting the right solution and partner to install it was of the utmost importance.



“There was no room for error. If a company loses wireless connectivity, they might lose money and customers. In our case we could lose lives. That's how much trust we put in Cisco. Their experience in the healthcare sector and proven architectures are industry-leading.”

Tomaž Knific
CIO, University Clinic Golnik



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Continued



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Solution and Results

Working with its managed service provider and wireless expert Astec, University Clinic Golnik has implemented a Cisco® wireless solution. Based on the principles of a [Cisco Medical-Grade Network](#) design, the solution consists of 170 indoor and 23 outdoor access points, supported by a Cisco Wireless Control System and WLAN Controllers. With the inclusion of Cisco Catalyst® 2960 Series Switches, it provides an IP telephony and video-ready platform that can be enabled with minimal effort and cost in the future.

The wireless network is a great time-saver for clinicians and nurses who no longer have to make repeat visits between patient rooms and workstations. Using their smart telephones, PDAs, and notebooks they can get everything they need (observation notes, medication records, allergy details, and x-ray results) anytime and anywhere they want.

For the 8000 inpatients and 50,000 outpatients treated each year at the hospital, this is just the beginning. The Cisco wireless network is currently being used to trial radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology.

One of the solutions being piloted provides patients with RFID-tagged alert cards, which they can carry around the hospital. Should patients experience discomfort, or get into difficulty, they can press the alert to notify their caregiver who, using location-based services can look up the person's location on a PC screen and go to their assistance without delay.

RFID-tagging could be extended to keep track of vital medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, infusion pumps, and oxygen supplies. Other projects under consideration include the installation of wireless sensors to monitor and alert staff in the event that one of its 100 medicine refrigerators is left open, or deviates from regulated temperatures.



For More Information

To learn more about how Cisco is helping healthcare organizations worldwide to transform, please go [here](#) 