



Hospital Case Study



“There was no question that for our ambitious wireless strategy to work, we needed an in-building coverage solution as part of the roll-out. We were extremely impressed with the Spotwave team's ability to quickly assess the requirements and propose, implement and support a robust solution in such a short time-frame. As a result, we were able to go live on schedule and ensure that our coverage was enhanced throughout the facility delivering "always-on" connectivity to our wireless devices.”

Bill Hoshell
Manager, Telecommunications and TIS
Central DuPage Hospital

The Customer - Central DuPage Hospital

Central DuPage Hospital (CDH), just outside Chicago, Illinois, is a 361 bed acute care hospital which opened in 1964. CDH is the second busiest surgical center in Illinois with over 21,000 surgeries performed annually. The medical staff consists of more than 800 physicians representing over 40 specialties and subspecialties. The hospital has five convenient care sites in Bloomingdale, Naperville, St. Charles, Bartlett and Wheaton.

Recently, CDH was implementing an aggressive wireless strategy which included the support of 800 PDAs and cell phones for staff. CDH wanted to support devices such as Sprint PCS Vision Smart Device Treo™ 600 by palmOne, Sprint PCS Vision Smart Device Toshiba 2032, and the Horizon Mobile Care Rounding™ application by McKesson for physicians. This combination of mobile handset and software was selected to allow physicians remote access to patient information both in and outside the hospital, and included real-time access to laboratory and radiology results, vital signs, medication updates and patient history. Support for Palm and Pocket PC operating system devices was seen as essential.

The Challenge

In order for the wireless phones and device applications to deliver these desired efficiencies, CDH needed to enhance their Sprint wireless coverage inside the hospital. As with most buildings, the location and construction of the hospital were preventing wireless signals from sufficiently penetrating into the building. Since wireless voice and data applications need a strong signal to work well, an in-building solution was required.

The Solution

Initially CDH examined the feasibility of covering the hospital with an engineered solution based distributed antenna system (DAS). However, this alternative required additional resources, a great deal of time to implement, and was cost-prohibitive. Sprint and CDH turned to Spotwave to devise a cost-effective in-building solution quickly - as the wireless roll-out was to go live in two weeks.

Spotwave immediately teamed with Sprint and CDH to examine the hospital's layout and to prioritize key areas which needed enhanced coverage. It was found that by covering 50 percent of the hospital with SpotCell® systems in 25 key areas, CDH would achieve almost 100 percent of the coverage they desired. Spotwave's proposed solution came in at one-sixth of the cost of the alternative.

SpotCell® adaptive repeaters were deployed in locations such as emergency rooms, neo-natal units, X-Ray rooms, lounges, locker rooms, cafeterias, and catheterization labs - areas where mobility and accessibility to critical information are crucial.



The Results

Once Spotwave completed the installation and ensured reliable in-building Sprint PCS coverage, the hospital was able to go live as the first medical facility to bring real-time patient clinical data to a phone PDA device over a wireless network. This resulted in immediate access to patient lab work, test results, diagnostics, real-time medical force deployment and redirection, and support for mobile personnel via the wide-area network.

Reliable coverage inside Central DuPage Hospital has also led to increased convenience for patients and visitors. Traditionally, CDH prohibited cell phone use. Now, patients and visitors to CDH who are Sprint subscribers, can use wireless devices just about everywhere in the hospital, assured of clear coverage.

For more information on Spotwave and our full line of indoor wireless coverage solutions, please visit our Web site at:

www.spotwave.com

Email
info@spotwave.com

Toll Free in North America
1-877-610-9586

Telephone
1-613-591-1662

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