

At-A-Glance

Cisco Unified Wireless Network helps improve patient care by making healthcare safer, more accessible, and more affordable

Why Should I Care About Wireless in Healthcare?

Nearly every healthcare organizations can benefit from wireless deployments that allow staff to move freely around but still be connected to data and communications services.

In addition to improving the effectiveness of staff, wireless solutions can transform bedside care by providing immediate access to important health information, such as prescription databases, dosage recommendations, and patient records. In triage situations, wireless solutions can save time and lives.

As part of the Cisco Systems® Medical-Grade Network infrastructure, a Cisco® Unified Wireless Network can provide access to critical information when and where it is needed. The Cisco Unified Wireless Network delivers a networking solution that meets the needs of healthcare providers for mobility, security, and instant access to voice and data applications.

“Anytime, anywhere” wireless access to data can help healthcare organizations improve responsiveness to patients, increase productivity, and drive collaboration.

What Problems Need to be Solved?

Today’s healthcare professionals are challenged to deliver high-quality patient care while reducing costs through improved efficiencies. Critical goals include:

- Improving quality of care
- Creating a safer environment through reduced medical errors and improved safety of people, equipment, and information
- Managing costs through improved operational efficiency and streamlined processes
- Increasing access to services, whether for a mobile population or communities distanced from centers of clinical expertise

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network is the industry’s only unified wired and wireless solution that cost-effectively addresses the WLAN security, deployment, management, and control issues facing healthcare providers. This powerful solution delivers scalable, manageable, and secure WLANs with a low total cost of ownership.

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network supports the following WLAN features:

- **Security**—Enterprise-class security with an advanced WLAN intrusion prevention system (IPS) and support for Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) and WPA2 Performance—Real-time RF scanning and monitoring of the RF environment to minimize interference and ensure reliable, high-speed wireless connectivity
- **Asset tracking**—Ability to track the physical location of high-value medical assets or patients to within a few meters using the same network that supports voice and data clients
- **Scalability**—Support for pervasive WLAN coverage across small, medium-sized, and large medical facilities and campus locations

- **Wireless voice**—Support for voice on the WLAN with advanced mobility features, including fast secure roaming, quality of service (QoS), extended talk time, and applications such as Cisco Nurse Call and Patient Monitoring
- **Choice of client devices**—A diverse selection of wireless devices that securely interoperate with a Cisco WLAN infrastructure and support advanced features such as voice

What Are the Benefits of the Cisco Unified Wireless Network?

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network delivers the following benefits:

- **HIPAA compliance**—Enterprise-class security with encryption and authentication helps ensure the privacy of your patient information and regulatory compliance.
- **Increased productivity**—Wireless solutions improve staff effectiveness by providing immediate access to prescription databases, recent test results, and patient medical histories.
- **Enhanced collaboration**—Medical staff can share information with colleagues within and outside the campus without having to sit at their workstations.

- **Reduced total cost of ownership**—The Cisco Unified Wireless Network minimizes operational and capital costs and supports scalable, problem-free administration that does not increase the burden on the IT staff.
- **Optimized workflow**—With a choice of mobile workstations, PDAs, or tablet PCs (all with secure interoperability), the Unified Wireless Network helps ensure the right device for point-of-care access to critical applications and databases.

Why Cisco?

The Cisco Unified Wireless Network enables enterprises to deploy wireless LANs with confidence. When it comes to wireless connectivity, the Cisco solution sets the enterprise standard for performance, security, network management, and reliability. Among the 16 top U.S. hospitals, 56 percent are using Cisco Systems for their wireless networks.

To find a Cisco Unified WLAN partner who can help you deploy with confidence visit:
http://tools.cisco.com/WWChannels/LOCATR/jsp/partner_locator.jsp

Figure 1. Cisco Unified WLAN for Healthcare

