



MSN Communications **CREATING NETWORKS** from the Ground Up...

MSN Delivers a State-of-the-Art Network to Poudre Valley Health System

As a regional provider of healthcare services in northern Colorado, Poudre Valley Health System required a medical-grade network to provide state-of-the-art patient care without sacrificing safety or security. The addition of the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, CO, as well as the surrounding network of doctor's offices, required a network be designed and installed from the ground up.

The goal was to design a type of network that had never existed, supporting the latest clinical technologies with the highest level of redundancy for absolute dependability. Since the Medical Center of the Rockies specializes in Level 2 trauma care and cardiovascular services, 100% uptime was key in the network they desired.

"The ability to have a functioning network that works all the time is essential for us to provide world-class care."

- Fernando Pedroza, Director of Technical & Information Services, Poudre Valley

Part of the requirements was to give caregivers the flexibility to access patient records anywhere inside or outside the hospital. This is key during inclement weather conditions, where patient care must continue regardless of a physician's location.

To meet the project requirements entailed work from some of MSN's most qualified personnel. By using the dual-path fibers provided by the Platte River Power Authority, MSN engineers designed a network that can grow as Poudre Valley does, without disrupting the day-to-day business of the hospital network.



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In addition to the robust network architecture, MSN implemented full wireless capability in the network, allowing virtually unlimited access throughout the facility. Using the VLAN technology that Cisco wireless implementations offer, this wireless access was segregated into three levels of security: to care givers, to physicians, and to patients, families and vendors.

Medical staff can accurately administer medication by using bar code scanners at mobile nurse stations, ensuring each patient has the individual medication they require, exactly when they need it. The nurse call system was also designed to contact the caregiver wirelessly, eliminating the middle man when trying to locate a specific member of the medical team.

Built into the network were additional features, such as monitoring building systems, including temperature, humidity and air exchanges. This enables Poudre Valley to ensure optimal energy efficiency while monitoring the patient environment at the most basic level.

In an effort to give patient's and their friends and families the most-positive experience possible, a system was developed called the *Get Well Network*. This service employs their in-room television to deliver real time access to patient information, provide feedback to the hospital staff and an assortment of entertainment options. Poudre Valley recognized that patients often feel powerless and uninformed, so this system was developed to facilitate better communication between the patient and the medical staff treating them.

Even after the patient is discharged from the hospital, they may still need follow-up care at a physician's office. Poudre Valley and MSN developed a health record database, accessible by the entire continuum of Poudre Valley satellite offices. So, no matter where they go in the Poudre Valley Health System for their immediate needs, their information is up-to-date and easily accessible.

MSN designed and implemented a wireless network solution that provides cutting edge capabilities to the Poudre Valley Health System, enabling medical staff to give better patient care and patients a safer, more-informed recovery.



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