

CASE STUDY

Innovative WiFi for clinics

Secure and confidential internet access



RHÖN-KLINIKUM
AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Health care providers in Germany want to offer WiFi solutions in accordance with the highest security standards for their patients. For this purpose, m3connect offers an innovative communication structure including a security concept for clinics and hospitals which need to have patient internet and staff intranet kept entirely separate.

RHÖN-KLINIKUM AG – a strong health network

Most hospitals and clinics have already installed fast and reliable WiFi networks for internal use. Protecting these applications from any kind of unauthorised access is indispensable. For patients, confidentiality is important with regards to wireless internet access, next to speed – after all, being in hospital is a private matter. That is why all modern health care providers need to consider security and ease of use when planning a new WiFi infrastructure.

m3connect has decided to tackle this challenge and implemented an innovative WiFi concept in several hospitals in autumn 2012, among them the Rhön-Klinikum AG hospital.

To fully meet the client's needs, m3connect used a WiFi security solution they had developed themselves:

the m3 SECURE HOTSPOT, a process that combines the IEEE802.1x security standard with m3connect's own authentication. This means that not only the content is secure right from the start; it also keeps the mere fact that a patient has been logged on confidential.

To provide patients with convenient, reliable but confidential access, m3connect installed a patient internet network logically separated from staff intranet. While they are logically separated, both networks use the same physical infrastructure.

"We have been working with m3connect for years and I am confident to say we have chosen the best. Personally, I particularly appreciate how flexible they have been responding to our needs."

Marc Kropacek deputy head IT services, Aschaffenburg Clinic

Challenge

Providing hospitals, care homes and clinics with secured WiFi networks for patients and staff.

Solution

The WiFi network is accessed by means of individual login data. The transmission path to the access point is already encrypted and authentication happens automatically in the background, not requiring login data to be typed in again.

Advantages for hotspot users

- no restrictions on usability
- choice of regular or secured WiFi access
- privacy protection while in hospital

Advantages for hotspot hosts

- no additional hardware required
- same allocation of login data as before
- free extension of existing m3connect systems
- optionally: system extension by adding additional applications such as VoD or digital signage.