

WHY CARE IS GOING WIRELESS



P&C Communications have over 25 years' experience in delivering complete business solutions including: - Telephony, Unified Communications and Network Infrastructures both Wired and Wireless.

The Benefits of Wireless for your Care Home...

A modern, reliable wireless network infrastructure is a key enabler of vital connectivity to the wider world for care home residents. This can also deliver additional benefits and services to their family members whilst providing a network for carers and medical personnel that can drive efficiencies, ease and enhance record keeping activities and improve communications.

Improved Communication

When moving from independent living to assisted living the key element to a successful transition is creating a home from home experience. Maintaining relationships with friends and family members and remaining connected to the outside world is a high priority for many and communication is key to alleviating the feeling of boredom and isolation. Technology in this instance is an enabler for so many things that collectively enhance the care home experience for residents, their families and staff members alike. Wireless technology effectively acts as a platform on which other applications can be built.

Staying Connected

Over the years, the way that we interact and communicate with each other has evolved significantly. Many elderly members of the community utilise social media accounts to connect with friends and family and find that this is also a great way to maintain contact with children or grandchildren living overseas. We are observing the use of smart phones, tablets and the utilisation of additional methods of communication such as Skype which promotes more frequent contact with friends and family. By having access to Wireless in care homes, those visiting can also remain connected during visits and have the best of both worlds when it comes to visiting a relative and juggling work commitments. This means that visits typically last longer which is beneficial for all concerned, residents and their families get to spend more quality time together and this also alleviates the pressure on care home staff by enabling them more time to perform other functions.



The World at Your Fingertips

Making the change from independent living is a more natural progression if a person can retain their individual preferences and literally have that home from home experience that is so important. Having some continuity is essential as it can dictate how well a person adjusts to the change set before them. TV sets are placed in communal areas to encourage social interactions, but personal preferences and individual likes and dislikes cannot be generalised. Having a wireless device such as a tablet enables residents to maintain their usual viewing schedule. They can also catch up on their favourite TV shows whenever they like and could utilise services such as Netflix. Providing easy access to the internet also enables residents keep up to date with global news, current affairs and even enjoy a little online shopping for their favourite brands and familiar products.

Technology Driving Productivity

By implementing a fast and secure wireless network, homes are driving increased simplicity and productivity. Staff can access key information at the push of a button and can update and modify care plans electronically which significantly improves efficiency. Changes relating to the recording and distribution of medication are being observed in many care home environments. The introduction of electronic and auditable information rather than previously used MAR charts is being implemented in many of these care home settings, predominantly to maintain the safety element in the distribution of all medication. We are also seeing changes in the way that Doctors are interacting with patients and the utilisation of video consultations seem to be increasing rapidly. This is saving time and money as medical professionals can assess residents faster without the need to abandon their practices and of course it removes the need for residents to venture out during the cold winter months. Care homes can push out information about daily activities available in the home, menu selection for meal times, events and other news.

Planning For The Future

Adopting a high-quality wireless network in your care home(s) will demonstrate that you are a progressive organisation that is harnessing technology to enhance the overall experience for residents, family members, staff and third-party care professionals. This is a key message which will serve as a major differentiator for those choosing a care home. As an early adopter of wireless technology and its many applications, you will have a tangible benefit that stands your service apart. It may also be of benefit in future CQC inspections as an additional factor in your Care, Effectiveness and Well Led status when you can benefit from the investment and how this has had a positive impact on many areas of care.

**For a free consultation, call Vicky Atherton at P&C Communications
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