



Main Line Health Enhances Infection Control and Patient Confidentiality with KSI Keyboards and RF IDEas

A not-for-profit health system serving portions of Philadelphia and its western suburbs, Main Line Health (MLH) offers acute care through four of the region's hospitals — Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Paoli Hospital and Riddle Hospital; as well as non-acute services through Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Mirmont Treatment Center for drug and alcohol recovery, and the HomeCare & Hospice home health service. The MLH family is also comprised of Main Line HealthCare, a multi-specialty physician network, and Lankenau Institute for Medical Research.

CHALLENGE: Keeping computer keyboards free of bacteria

A tribute to its more than 10,000 employees, MLH has received numerous awards for quality care and service, including Magnet® certification, the nation's highest honor for nursing excellence. One of the criteria for Magnet® certification measures infection control effectiveness, which is a crucial challenge for a health care facility. Devices like a PC or laptop keyboard located in nurses' stations or on mobile carts, that are handled hundreds of times a day by doctors and nurses throughout MLH's four acute care hospitals, can be a prime spot for the collection and spreading of infectious bacteria.

"Over the years we have implemented multiple styles and types of infection control keyboards including roll up styles and short life disposable keyboards. It has

been challenging to find a balance between cost effectiveness and usability. The keyboards from RF IDEas met that balance. Clinical staff at our hospitals liked the both feel of the keyboards and the ease of cleaning," says Steve Czaplá, Director of IS Customer Support.

CHALLENGE: Reducing clutter and freeing up PC ports

In order to maintain strict adherence to HIPAA, two years ago Czaplá and his IS team deployed RF IDEas proximity readers throughout its four acute care hospitals and one rehabilitation hospital, enabling doctors and nurses to use their existing hospital ID badge to sign in to computers in the nurses' stations and on mobile carts. The RF IDEas readers allowed them to simply tap their badge against the reader to verify authorization and gain access to each computer rather than trying to

Improves infection control and workflow while reducing clutter

remember and type in multiple passwords, multiple times a day. The solution saved the staff a significant amount of time and frustration. It also ensured that no one could access the computers except those with authorization, maintaining strict patient data confidentiality.

However, Czaplá noticed that the workstations or mobile carts where the laptops were located were already cluttered with wires from keyboards, mouse, power supplies, etc., forcing the IS team to mount the readers elsewhere, making it awkward for the staff to get to. In addition, all of the peripherals needed a USB port, including the RF IDEas reader, and that created the problem of too many devices, not enough ports.

SOLUTION: Easy-clean KSI keyboards embedded with RF IDEas readers

Czaplá reached out to Kevin Krause, president and founder of Security Rep, Inc., an independent expert on biometric and security devices to help Main Line Health put together the right solution. Krause recommended Key Source International's (KSI) easy-clean, infection-control keyboards with embedded RF IDEas pcProx® readers, easily addressing both of needs with one solution.

With the KSI keyboard, nurses and Environmental Services staff are easily able to clean keyboards without having to worry about damaging them. The keyboard is internally sealed to prevent issues with liquid spills and features recessed keys for easier cleaning and improved ergonomic use.

The KSI keyboard with an embedded pcProx® reader cleared up the cluttered desktops and mobile carts. A simple tap of a staff member's existing ID badge over the red light sends data to third party single sign-on (SSO) software that identified the individual, verified that the individual was authorized to use that computer, then unlocked the computer.

BENEFITS: Infection control, reduced clutter, single sign-on improved workflow

"As a Magnet® designated health system, keeping infection rates low is extremely important for us," says Ann Hooper, MA, PMP, project manager for Main Line Health Information Services. "Only 7% of U.S. hospitals meet that criterion."

So far, MLH has rolled out over 3,000 keyboards across several hospitals with plans to install 400 more in the health system's emergency departments.

Greater infection control

With the KSI keyboard, nurses and Environmental Services staff are easily able to clean keyboards without having to worry about damaging them. By using the rocker switch located on top of the keyboard, nurses simply turn off the keyboard and begin the disinfection process using KSI's San-a-Key Healthcare Technology System with patented clean switch and EPA approved germicidal wipes. After the keyboard dries, they flip the switch back on and the computer is ready for use.

Reduced clutter

The KSI keyboard with the embedded RF IDEas pcProx® reader not only cleared up the cluttered desktops and mobile carts, it also provided access to more laptop ports, as the reader was no longer external. The clearly visible red light on the upper part of the keyboard lets doctors and nurses know exactly where to tap their ID badges.

Improved workflow from single sign-on

A simple tap of a staff member's existing ID badge over the area with the embedded pcProx® reader sends the data to third party single sign-on (SSO) software that identifies the individual, verifies that he or she is authorized to use the computer to access patient data, then unlocks the computer.

Using SSO can save valuable time each day by eliminating the need for doctors and nurses to have to remember passwords and manually type them in multiple times a day.

Avoids replacement cost

No longer considered a throw-away item, the keyboards from KSI have a five-year warranty, which helps MLH avoid significant cost of replacement, especially for the thousands of computers in use throughout the health system. "That makes a big difference because a hospital environment can be tough on the keyboards," says Czaplá.

For more information on how RF IDEas can help you keep costs down, productivity up and customers satisfied, visit www.RFIDEas.com

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