CASE STUDY:
HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

AFFINITI

Pennsylvania Healthcare consoritum delivers secure private network to improve patient care

> The PMHRD network has filled a critical need in maintaining the viability of many of our rural hospitals, ensuring that local care remains accessible to the markets served by our member hospitals. The Affiniti network has also opened up access to advanced service capability, extended hours of operation for emergency care as well as cost containment for services such as Electronic Medical Records applications." Affiniti's capability combined with its flexibility in serving customer needs has exceeded our initial expectations"
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> Greg Snyder, VP Technology, PMHRD

The Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Alliance (PMHA) needed to develop a centralized telecommunications solution for transport and Internet services to support rapidly evolving technological needs in the rural healthcare market, including shared IT applications such as PACS, remote physician access, and delivering advanced Telemedicine to remote locations.

PMHA primarily supports northwestern, central and northeastern portions of Pennsylvania as well as southern New York, and member hospitals are typically the sole medical provider in their region. PMHA established a consortium known as the Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development (PMHRD) to deploy a private regional healthcare network interconnecting participating member hospitals to leverage cost benefits in the delivery of various shared services across the network to improve patient outcomes and service delivery.

Affiniti's regional wide area network solution assists PMHRD in the transmission of sensitive patient data, high-resolution medical imaging, and Telemedicine applications that allow medical specialists to communicate and treat patients both locally and remotely. The deployed solution consists of a fully managed Virtual Private Routed Network that includes access to Tier-1 POP's creating not only an ultra-fast "highway" for the transmission of medical data and images but also a low latency gateway service to the Internet to interconnect to other service providers providing EMR/EHR, teleradiology, all across a HIPAA compliant network.

The Affiniti network allows some member hospitals to connect to major data centers, securely hosting their Electronic Medical Records ("EMR") at nationally recognized facilities. Shared medical billing system software is also available to member hospitals on their private PMHA network. Specific Telemedicine accessibility allows PMHA member hospitals to remotely connect to major medical centers in metropolitan areas, leveraging specialists including Pediatric Cardiologists and TeleStroke physicians, which saves these remote hospitals necessary funding by sourcing available specialists from populated areas without sacrificing quality of care.

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