



Video Surveillance for Hospitals

*A 2014 crime and security trends survey of Hospitals in United Kingdom and published by the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety reported that 154 shootings took place inside health care facilities nationwide between 2000 and 2014.

Background

In hospitals and healthcare facilities, video surveillance is an effective tool not only for increasing and maintaining security, but also for controlling costs. Surveillance cameras can work to protect hospital employees and patients from security breaches, and provide valuable visual evidence that can be used to increase productivity and prevent dishonest claims. IP video technology is providing hospitals with added flexibility in their video surveillance installations, while offering benefits such as remote video monitoring and more effective storage capabilities. For example Alzheimer's patients make it almost impossible to recount situations without a video record, given their unpredictable and random behavior, along with their medical needs, this is just one of the many reasons IP video surveillance is important.

Benefits of Hospital Video Surveillance

Increase overall security and safety – Security cameras positioned throughout a hospital help to prevent crimes and break-ins and also allow operators to watch for troubled patients and monitor for unauthorized visitors in restricted areas.

Improve worker productivity – The presence of surveillance cameras on the premises can improve communication between hospital departments or buildings, allowing for heightened productivity.

Prevent dishonest claims – In instances where patients or visitors falsely attest to injuring themselves on hospital property, visual evidence from the facility's security cameras can disprove such assertions, saving the hospital from pricey unwarranted insurance claims.

Resolve employee disputes – Employee disputes are easily resolved when clear visual proof is available. Surveillance cameras can shed light on incidents in question.

Continuous real-time monitoring – IP surveillance allows authorized hospital employees to monitor critical areas continuously, in real time, from their personal computers.

Digital storage – Hospitals that choose to install IP-based video surveillance systems can take advantage of the benefits of digital storage. IP systems enable the user to store recorded footage digitally on network servers, hard-drives or NVRs, where the surveillance video is easily accessible to authorized users, and offers improved searching capabilities.

Emergency rooms are high stress areas. You might have someone who was turned away, or have been waiting for a long time, or someone irrational. You can have a gang shooting. It's extremely volatile.

John Catagnus, Chaiman of Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Video Surveillance Setup Advice

- Place security cameras that provide views of all building entrances and exits in order to capture images of those entering and leaving the premises.
- Monitor hospital hallways to keep watch over the flow of activity within the facility.
- Position cameras in elevators and fire escapes.
- Utilize surveillance equipment to watch over the hospital's parking lots and loading areas.
- Install security cameras at entrances to restricted areas to ensure that only authorized users are granted access.
- Position cameras both inside and outside of the facility
- Position cameras at key position in Emergency rooms
- Position PTZ camera in the pharmaceutical storage area of a hospital can be set to focus on a drug storage cabinet after hours.



Key Security Areas of Hospitals

The advances in HD cameras and enhanced video platforms make video systems more and more important in the open environment of healthcare facilities. The key places for IP cameras are:

- Entrance gate (indoors)
- Entrance gate (outdoors)
- Ambulance Area
- Arrival Lounge
- Check-In Area
- Drug Storage
- Lobby (without sunlight)
- Emergency Exit
- Hallway/Corridor
- Parking Gate

Medical Center in Inglewood 2014

Crime detection and safety precautions are at the top of everyone's list when citing the need for video surveillance, but they are far from the only reasons.

Regulatory requirements, such as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability) also play into the demand for video surveillance in hospitals. This is why Inglewood deployed 250 ET93 cameras and 10 IP PTZ cameras to protect their facility and staff.

