

Customer Profile

Facility: *Hospital*

Requirements: *Cardless access system, cold-weather rated; extra security for infants, pharmacy, psychiatric ward*

The Challenge

Lima Memorial Hospital opened in 1899, the first community medical center in west central Ohio. For a number of years, the hospital had been using a popular magnetic stripe-based time-and-attendance system to control access to secure areas. But the hospital's administration and security departments were not satisfied with the old system's performance, so they began researching alternate security solutions.

According to Jim Dietler, security officer for Lima Memorial Hospital, the most important goal of the new system was to control access with a cardless system, avoiding the administration difficulties associated with cards, which can be lost or stolen.

Another goal was to install a system with a superior temperature rating. It can drop to well below freezing in Ohio, and cold temperatures can render inferior access control devices useless.

The task of keeping this healthcare facility, its patients, 1,300 employees and 375 doctors secure went to Hirsch Electronics.

The Solution

Dietler met with Jim Jenkins of C.A. Ritchey, Hirsch's installing dealer for the facility, and discussed the hospital's security requirements. "Before we picked Hirsch, I looked at a number of systems," says Dietler. "There were other cardless systems, but the only one I found with a temperature rating of zero degrees

Fahrenheit or below was the Hirsch system."

Jenkins secured most of the hospital's non-visitor doors with a Von Duprin Chexit® device and a Hirsch ScramblePad® secure electronic keypad. The Chexit device consists of a touchbar and rim strike that provides a mechanical egress in case of an emergency, but it also sounds an alarm if it is not used in conjunction with the ScramblePad—a unique cardless reader that scrambles the keypad digits before each use. Because the ScramblePad uses membrane switches in lieu of moveable buttons, the integrity of the device is not compromised by cold weather. "It's hard to lock down an area where every door is an exit," says Jenkins, "but this creative solution accomplishes just that."

To add greater security, horizontal and vertical viewing restrictors on the ScramblePad provide a narrow field of view of the keypad, so only the person in front of the unit can read it. Since each authorized user is issued his or her own PIN code, the ScramblePad also provides accountability, keeping track of who accesses the secure areas.

In a special application of the device, Jenkins installed a ScramblePad to the entry and exit sides of each door of the maternity ward, as well as all doors leading to and from that floor. A valid code is even required to exit the elevator on the maternity ward's floor. Vicon CCTV cameras, discreetly recessed into the ceiling, monitor both sides of all doors. (The CCTV system is not tied to



the rest of the access control system.) With the threat of infant abduction a serious issue in hospitals, this added security measure is more important than ever.

The Hirsch system provides a comprehensive network management tool for system setup, data retrieval, report generation and user tracking and control. It gives the hospital alarm and event reporting, history logging and management reporting.

The system also programs Hirsch's DIGI*TRAC™ controllers. These controllers—five Model 8s and one Model 2—are access control systems that utilize digital communications to the keypads, which allows for longer wiring runs and multi-drop configurations. The controllers are also expandable, making future upgrades easier.

The hospital recently upgraded their psychiatric ward in the same manner, carefully restricting access on that floor . . . and keeping patients from wandering off.

Since access to all secure areas of the hospital is controlled, Jenkins installed a ScramblePad on the hospital's pharmacy—with a twist. As Jenkins explains, "The head pharmacist must enter his or her code at the start of the shift before any of the pharmacy

technicians can use their codes to get through the door. In other words, no one is distributing medicines until the boss is on site to supervise." This is accomplished via the "2-person rule," a standard feature of the Hirsch security system.

The Bottom Line

The system has completely eliminated the need for tagging babies. Since all the doors are within view of the nurse's station, no one can leave the floor without being seen.

"The hospital wanted a system with more flexibility," adds Jenkins, "one that they could count on. We were able to meet all the requirements: fire safety shutdown, high security, superior temperature rating and high reliability. They are very, very happy with the system."

Facility	Lima Memorial Hospital
Location	Lima, Ohio
Employees	1300 staff, 375 doctors
Size	308 beds, 34 acres