Keyscan solves hospital's unique security challenges

A behavioral health hospital faces a unique set of security challenges. It requires a full security solution that is flexible, and reliable to address a wide range of security issues. For Hartgrove Hospital in Chicago Illinois, the choice to go with a Keyscan Access Control system to provide this full solution was clear from the very beginning.

Hartgrove Hospital employs roughly 500 people, from administrators, to doctors and nurses, maintenance staff, and plenty of other staff designations. All staff requires access to different areas and resources within the hospital. Prior to moving into their new facility, Hartgrove staff was using traditional keys and key switches to secure the facility. For Martin Milot, Director of Plant Operations for Hartgrove Hospital, the keys were simply not working. "With Keyscan you never have to worry about a lost key. The card credentials can be removed from the system in seconds so no unauthorized person can gain access to sensitive areas." Keys and locks were being replaced often costing the hospital thousands of dollars each year.

The Keyscan system now controls over 130 doors at Hartgrove Hospital. All floors including emergency and all quiet and seclusion rooms are managed by the Keyscan system. For hospital administrators the functionality of the system has been a major time-saver. "Our HR director and I have remote access to the software. I can lock and unlock doors, add and delete cardholders from my house if needed. I am able to ensure the integrity of the building at any time which is very convenient," says Mr. Milot.

The hospital is currently utilizing Keyscan's photobadging software module to provide photo identification, as well as card access to all employees all in one card credential. This same card also contains a barcode which can be read by other systems in the hospital, such as the time clock for integration with the hospital's time and attendance software.

"Because 75% of our patients are children," says Mr. Milot, "it is especially important for us to control access to patient rooms and to know who has accessed which areas of the hospital." Keyscan's vast reporting capabilities are one feature of the system that captivated the hospital. "Having a full

audit trail on all of our employees has been a great tool. Sometimes there are incidents where we have to do investigations. Now I can pull up reports that provide useful information to help "fill in the blanks" of who, what, when and where."

The Hartgrove system was designed and installed by Video and Sound Service, a Keyscan enterprise dealer in Northlake, IL. Mr. Mark Lesmeister managed the project for Hartgrove. The Keyscan panels were clustered on each of the four floors of the hospital, and connected over the hospital's network. "The Vantage software is flexible, easy to set up, and extremely user-friendly. It is very easy for hospital administration to learn how to use. At Hartgrove we were able to use photos from the HR database to create the photobadge cards, saving them a lot of time" commented Mr. Lesmeister. With over 25 years of experience in the security industry, Mr. Lesmeister has seen his fair share of access products. "Keyscan is an easy system to install, it is incredibly reliable, and clients are always happy. You can't beat the value of a Keyscan system."

For almost 2 years now, Hartgrove Hospital has been securing their facility, staff, and patients with a Keyscan access control system and they could not be happier with what they have been able to do with it. Mr. Milot agrees that "Keyscan is definitely the way to go."

Keyscan manufactures systems that endure the test of time, offering reliable operation you can depend on 365 days a year. And every system is backed with Keyscan's industry renowned technical support.

Keyscan systems are sold by Video and Sound Service and other exceptional access control dealers, integrators and distributors throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, Great Britain, and Europe.

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