GPC SD-WAN
PROVIDING THE NETWORK OF TOMORROW FOR HEALTHCARE TODAY

"Visibility to individual locations wasn't possible with our legacy network, but with VMware SD-WAN Orchestrator, we can quickly identify problems at each branch in the network."

Senior Network Engineer, Multi-state Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers

"With SD-WAN (powered by VMware), we have much better visibility than we ever had before, which allows us to pinpoint issues and address them before they become big issues for the business." SD-WAN enables us to do that and adhere to strict HIPAA requirements on a continuous basis."

CIO for National Outpatient Treatment Centers

"We've seen increased availability at our sites because unlike traditional networks which require manual intervention, everything's now automated through SD-WAN technology (powered by VMware)."

ICT Manager (Infrastructure), Health and Aged Care Group

Introducing SD-WAN managed service for healthcare providers from Great Plains Communications and powered by VMware®

Providing healthcare today is much more than making a diagnosis or prescribing medication. The advancements in medicine, the increase in regulations to protect patient privacy and the digitization of patient medical records require a scalable, secure, uninterrupted and flexible healthcare IT network.

That is why Great Plains Communications (GPC) has partnered with VMware®, the market-leading software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN) solution, to improve application performance and availability for healthcare providers while also lowering capital expenditures on network equipment.

The Software Defined Healthcare Network
GPC SD-WAN is a managed service is built on software-defined networking principals to address end-to-end automation, application continuity, branch transformation and security from the central data center and cloud to remote clinics at the network edge.

This solution consists of hosted cloud gateways, branch office and data center appliances; overseen by a central orchestrator management system that provides the healthcare IT staff with real-time visibility into the performance of networks and applications. The service features integrated security features such as using encrypted VPN tunnels to protect healthcare data in motion, ensuring patient privacy while supporting regulatory compliance.

SD-WAN from GPC is perfectly suited for managing the next generation of digital records, as well as sharing high-resolution medical images in real time, by enabling enterprises to prioritize networked healthcare applications such as Electronic Healthcare Records (EHR) and Teleradiology. In addition, SD-WAN can deliver secure and reliable access to data centers, cloud services and software as a service (SaaS) for branch offices or remote clinics.

Ensuring Quality of Service
When a telehealth patient requires over-the-phone care or physicians need to discuss patient cases for assessment and diagnosis, quality of service (QoS) is critical. Dropped calls or jitter-heavy video conferences are

detrimental to providing high-quality care via unified communications (UC) applications, which require a high level of reliable bandwidth and service quality.

The unique capabilities of GPC SD-WAN can detect degradation on access links and employ traffic steering techniques that select the best path for each application to ensure consistent performance and overcome network quality issues caused by delay, jitter and packet loss. This service can even improve performance even when there is only a single connection, all of which has a very positive impact on the user experience.

Managed Service Savings
As a fully managed service, there is no upfront capital expenditure required to purchase equipment, software licenses and maintenance. The configuration, day-to-day management and troubleshooting are performed by the GPC 24x7 Network Operations Center. This enables significant cost savings in term of operational overhead, while freeing IT staff from the daily burden of managing networks so they can focus on delivering mission critical healthcare applications.

Security & Compliance
No health network solution is complete without protecting the information that travels over its connections. All communications over the SD-WAN network flow through VPN tunnels protected by strong encryption such as AES 256, which meets the standards specified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as required under the HIPAA Security Rule. Access to the management system is protected by strong password, multi-factor authentication and role-based access. A stateful and context-aware (application, user, device) integrated firewall delivers granular control of applications and prevents access to malicious sites. Additionally, SD-WAN integrates seamlessly with best-of-breed security vendors (such as Palo Alto Networks, Zscaler, Symantec and Check Point).

Together, these features allow healthcare organizations to easily implement the security profile of their choice to better protect the network, while improving application access and availability for its end users.

A complete SD-WAN solution
GPC SD-WAN delivers a complete managed solution for healthcare organizations. It provides reliable, secure and efficient connections from clinics to applications in the cloud or data center, ensuring confidential access to patient information. Features like centralized management and multiple types of access means that sites can be connected quickly and managed more easily. Application visibility ensures consistent performance and ease of troubleshooting for reliable operations, allowing healthcare organizations to make better use digital technology to deliver the network of the future, today.

Massive Movement to Work from Home

Embrace SaaS/UCaaS for Resiliency & DR

Patient Portal Software
Video Conferencing Applications
EHR/EMR Applications
Collaboration Software
... and more

Meet New Compute Requirements using IaaS

Cloud Service Providers

Edge

Mobile Network

Gateway

Internet

Edge

SD-WAN Overlay

Ethernet

Hub

Hospital Data Center

Auxiliary/Overflow Facility