

Case Study

Every Second Counts at University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital

Patients, visitors and staff may have a tough time describing the new University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in a single word.

—Impressive immediately comes to mind.

—Innovative is certainly apropos.

The kids will probably say it's cool.

But when it comes right down to it, **WOW!!!** may be the only word that covers it all.

From floor to ceiling, inside and out, careful consideration was given to every detail. According to Russell Williams, VP of Professional Services, the Children's Hospital needed to appeal to not only a regional clientele, but also international patients. The design had to be fun for a 3 year old but not overly juvenile to alienate teenage patients.

"We are the oldest children's hospital in the state of Minnesota, celebrating our 100th birthday this year. We are also the largest, most comprehensive children's hospital in the state. When other hospitals cannot provide necessary care for a child, they come here" explains Williams.

Synchronized time and accurate clocks are extremely important in any hospital setting. The U of M Facility Management team tried seven different clocks before selecting the SiteSync IQ Wireless Clock System manufactured by American Time in Dassel, Minnesota.

"The SiteSync IQ clocks were the only ones that worked. We've had them in the main U of M hospital since 2008. When we tested them at the new site, we discovered complete signal coverage, so the Children's Hospital didn't have to purchase another system controller. All we had to purchase were the wall clocks for the new building next door", said Williams.

From the wall colors, to the furniture, to the signs, the clocks tie into the overall "Passport to Discovery" theme. As you move from floor to floor, you experience everything from the jungle to the desert to an underwater adventure. During the purchase process, April Debner, an ATS Regional Sales Representative, explained how logos may be added to the clocks free of charge. "We offer logos to all of our wireless clock customers. When I started working with the Children's Hospital, I expected them to send me a logo for the hospital. My curiosity was piqued when they requested 11 different animals. I could tell they were doing something very interesting. I haven't had any other customers request something so unique."

The 96 patient rooms are equipped with the latest technology. And again, careful consideration was given to every part of the room including the placement of the clock on the wall. A team of doctors and nurses conducted mock patient procedures including administering drugs and doing chest compressions to determine the correct clock location. "There are certain things, like heart rate, respiration and the specific timing of different therapies where the second hand on the clock is critical. Our Emergency Department needed synchronized time, as did our patient rooms, surgery suites and dialysis areas. Any clocks in direct clinical care areas need perfectly synchronized time down to the second. Every second counts in our entire hospital" according to Williams.

By installing wireless clocks, the Facility Maintenance Department saves on labor and effort. Williams appreciates how the clocks adjust automatically for Daylight Saving Time and the battery booster packs make the clocks virtually maintenance-free for several years. "We can respond much quicker to a patient or staffing need instead of worrying about clocks. A clock is the kind of thing that should simply "work" which these do. It allows everyone to focus on things closer to the patient."

To discover more details of the SiteSync IQ Wireless Clock System, visit american-time.com.