

# Good Wi-Fi for residents of care homes is more important than ever.



## Wi-Fi is essential to communicate, even at an older age

CommScope analyses how current senior housing and residential care centres meet the needs of the elderly for access to the internet. How can this generation benefit from a complete and efficient Wi-Fi infrastructure?

For younger generations, having a Wi-Fi connection is a matter of course, but for senior citizens it is less simple: less than 50% of all nursing homes, residential care centres or care homes offer Wi-Fi for their residents. If a Wi-Fi network is present, the coverage is incomplete or available speeds are limited. According to a survey by CommScope Ruckus, 70% of people over 65 want to have access to a network so they can continue to participate in social life and keep in touch with their families and friends.

CommScope explains why Wi-Fi is essential for nursing homes and residential care centres and how a digital network can be built without much effort.

## Why is a WLAN necessary for the elderly?

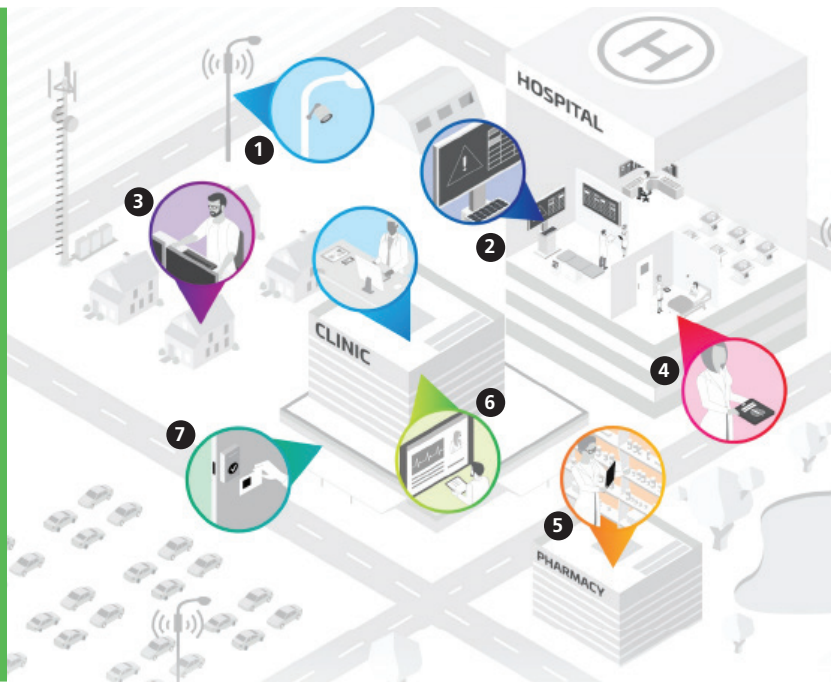
The Internet has been a fundamental part of our daily lives for years. We communicate with our loved ones and friends, we inform each other via social media, follow the news and watch videos for entertainment. It is therefore not surprising that we do not want to give this up when we are older.

For senior citizens in nursing homes and residential care centres, internet access means the possibility to continue participating in social life. This allows them to stay up-to-date on current events and to maintain their social contacts. With the Corona pandemic still fresh in our minds, it is not always self-evident that family members or acquaintances can simply visit. In addition, the internet enables them to maintain a certain degree of independence, for example by shopping online.

If you do not have access to the internet, you will be literally isolated from the rest of the world. Properly functioning Wi-Fi therefore makes a major contribution to the quality of life of residents in healthcare institutions.

## A Complex Environment

- 1 • **Site safety and security** parking lot cameras  
• **Universal connectivity** personal devices, wired and wireless medical devices
- 2 • **Medical worker and patient safety** bed alert, nurse call, auto locking of the facility  
• **Panic alarm/buttons**
- 3 • **Residential – self managed**
- 4 • **Asset location tracking** such as locating mobile imaging devices
- 5 • **Inventory management RFID**
- 6 • **Tele-health, wearables and remote patient monitoring**
- 7 • **Building automation** such as HVAC, power, card readers, video  
• **IoT Integration**



### Who, in addition to senior citizens, would benefit from a Wi-Fi network in a healthcare institution?

A good Wi-Fi network also offers benefits for nursing staff and (infrastructure) managers of nursing homes and residential care centres. By using digital systems, a lot of time can be saved on administrative work. In this way, there is more time for important matters such as attention and care for the residents.

By using IoT applications and solutions, healthcare institutions can use their time more efficiently and, for instance, only really have to act upon a report. Consider for example:

- Sensors that warn caregivers when residents fall or leave their residence.
- Use of home automation such as a smart thermostat and lighting, use of shutters or sunblinds, or playing music.
- Locks can be replaced by using electronic locks and bracelets.

And yet we still see that more than 50% of nursing homes and residential care centres have poor or limited Wi-Fi coverage.

### Why is there still a big difference between what residents (and their family) want and reality?

The development of an efficient, large and widely available Wi-Fi network for healthcare institutions is still in its infancy. A possible explanation for this is that, until a few years ago, being digitally connected was not a priority for this generation.

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Today we live longer, remain independent for longer and feel more at home with technology, even at an older age. Residential care centres offer the safety of on-the-spot care and the ability to be independent.

Healthcare institutions benefit from a reliable, sustainable and scalable solution that uses the latest technologies such as WiFi6, AI (Artificial Intelligence), IoT, etc. CommScope offers wireless solutions with the Ruckus. Healthcare institutions do not have to employ IT specialists themselves for this. Simply entrust it to an experienced CommScope [sic: CommScope] partner. If desired, you can opt for a monthly cost model and avoid large investments in advance.

### How can Commscope help to create a digital infrastructure in healthcare institutions?

Thanks to years of experience and patented technologies, CommScope is able to create a Wi-Fi network for both low and high density environments. This can limit the number of hotspots. By separating the administration network from the network for residents and visitors, we ensure a secure environment. CommScope is also the market leader in data infrastructure. A good Wi-Fi network starts with a good and stable copper and fibre-optic infrastructure that is geared to the ever-increasing demands of Wi-Fi.

CommScope connects networks and people. Wi-Fi is a basic need these days and this will not decrease as you get older.