



viewcare

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CeBIT 2011: When the Internet connection becomes vital

Danish telemedicine project uses Viprinet routers to enable remote monitoring of chronically ill patients in their own home

Long term monitoring and treatment of chronically ill patients in hospitals does not only cause enormous expenses, it is also associated with an increased risk of the patient contracting infections. Around the globe, medical technology manufacturers, healthcare operators, and political decision makers are looking for telemedicine solutions to enable medical treatment and care to patients in their own home. Besides respective measurement devices monitoring vital functions and devices for quick communication with treatment professionals, there is one thing of pre-eminent importance: a reliable Internet connection.

At the world's largest computer fair CeBIT from March 1st to 5th in Hannover, the German router manufacturer Viprinet will present a unique telemedicine solution, which has been field-tested in numerous Danish hospitals. The Danish specialist telemedicine company Viewcare A/S has developed a safe and stable telemedicine service, which can be deployed acutely and which allows hospital departments to manage critically ill patients remotely in their own home. The solution enables an effective collaboration between patients and treatment professionals over a distance.

Patients interact with the Viewcare solution through a touch sensitive screen – there are no confusing user interface components like keyboard and mouse. The screen delivers a life size image of the treatment professional and this is important to ensure that a critically ill patient feels safe and comfortable with the telemedicine solution. Attached to the terminal is a number of measurement devices depending on the specific needs for medical measurements for the individual patient. All data is collected and validated by the treatment professional and the Viewcare infrastructure ensures that the measurements are organized for later use in official IT systems in hospitals and at general practitioners.

A Viprinet Multichannel VPN Router installed in the patient's home carries out the secure data transfer. With this, several different Internet connections can be bundled into one stable and highly reliable line. Thus,

patients are always connected to their treatment specialist from their home. "In an emergency, a working Internet connection can be vital", Viprinet CEO Simon Kissel points out. "Our routers are distributing the outage risk of each broadband line attached and thereby provide an availability of 99.9% and beyond", Kissel continues. A comparable level of reliability is out of reach even with the most expensive leased line.

Thanks to the router's modular design, the locally available broadband lines can be used for establishing a bonded connection, no matter if it is 3G, ADSL or Cable TV Internet. In this way, reliable and fast Internet links can be established even in remote areas. The two-way HD video/audio feed and all measurement data can be securely transferred via this connection.

The Viewcare solution is currently in use in a number of Danish hospitals in all parts of the country typically for the safe and effective remote treatment of patients suffering from chronic disorders such as COPD, diabetes, heart failure, sclerosis and more. To date hundreds of Viewcare telemedicine treatment interventions have been completed successfully using the current telemedicine solution. At Frederiksberg Hospital in Copenhagen the Viewcare telemedicine service is being tested in a large scale Randomized Clinical Trial running until the end of 2011 for patients suffering from COPD. This research project will provide clinical evidence for the effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of hospital telemedicine treatment for critically ill patients in their own home.

At CeBIT, Viprinet will show a fully operational Viewcare terminal at its booth in hall 13, booth D19. "This project is a landmark for the complete e-health sector", underlines Simon Kissel. "We are convinced that the secure treatment and monitoring of patients in their own home will bring about a revolution in health care systems worldwide."

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