SPOT WEAKNESSES. ELIMINATE RISK. PLAN FOR WHAT'S NEXT.

Healthcare Network Must-Haves:

25-Point Infrastructure Checklist to Minimize Downtime and Stay Compliant

INTRODUCTION

In healthcare, network failures aren't just IT issues—they have the potential to become patient safety risks, compliance violations, and PR problems. This checklist is built for IT professionals who need to ensure their physical infrastructure can support the demands of modern medical environments.

For each item below, mark **Yes, No,** or **Not Sure.** Jot down notes. Use this to start internal conversations—or as a reason to bring in an expert.

If you answered "No" or "Not Sure" to several items in a section, take it as a signal. These are the exact kinds of gaps we help hospitals fix—before they lead to rework, failed inspections, or network outages.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & CABLING HEALTH

Many network problems begin with bad cable work: overcrowded closets, poor labeling, damaged lines, or cables that were never meant to handle today's speeds. This section zeroes in on cable type, placement, labeling, and installation quality—core elements of a healthy network.

YES	NO	NOT SURE	
☐	☐	☐	1. Are MDF and IDF locations properly placed, ventilated, and free of overcrowding?
☐	☐	☐	2. Is your current cabling rated for bandwidth needs (e.g., CAT6, CAT6A, fiber)?
☐	☐	☐	3. Are copper cables tested and certified to ANSI/TIA-568 standards?
☐	☐	☐	4. Are cable trays and pathways neat, accessible, and not overloaded?
☐	☐	☐	5. Is all cable labeling consistent, visible, and aligned with your documentation system?
☐	☐	☐	6. Are terminations properly grounded and free of EMI interference near sensitive equipment?
☐	☐	☐	7. Are all cable runs free of visible damage, tight bends, or insecure mounting?

PERFORMANCE, UPTIME & REDUNDANCY

Healthcare networks can't tolerate latency or downtime. Failover paths, redundant uplinks, and monitored usage aren't luxuries—they're expectations. This section checks for gaps in traffic flow, failover, power draw, and redundancy.

YES	NO	NOT SURE	
☐	☐	☐	8. Has your network experienced unexplained slowdowns, dropped packets, or full outages in the past year?
☐	☐	☐	9. Are redundant uplinks or alternate paths in place for critical areas of the facility?
☐	☐	☐	10. Is network traffic monitored regularly for saturation, spikes, or single points of failure?
☐	☐	☐	11. Are PoE demands nearing limits on switches, potentially degrading performance?
☐	☐	☐	12. Are backup systems (UPS, generator) tested and integrated with your core switching gear?

COMPLIANCE & LIFE SAFETY STANDARDS

Poor documentation or misrouted cables can cause failed inspections—or worse, safety violations. This section helps you identify whether your infrastructure is inspection-ready.

YES	NO	NOT SURE	
☐	☐	☐	13. Are all ceiling, wall, and floor penetrations sealed with approved firestopping materials?
☐	☐	☐	14. Are cabling installations aligned with NFPA, NEC, and local fire codes?
☐	☐	☐	15. Do cabling pathways maintain infection control zone separation (ICRA)?
☐	☐	☐	16. Is infrastructure aligned with Joint Commission or DNV audit requirements?
☐	☐	☐	17. Are current cable maps, as-builts, and test results available for inspection without scrambling?

SCALABILITY & TECH-READINESS

If your network barely supports today's load, it won't survive tomorrow's upgrades. Imaging, telemetry, IoT, security, and wireless systems are only growing. This section focuses on fiber capacity, available ports, and readiness for new tech rollouts.

YES	NO	NOT SURE	
☐	☐	☐	18. Do MDFs and IDFs have physical space, power, and ports for expansion?
☐	☐	☐	19. Can your current infrastructure support added bandwidth and connected device growth?
☐	☐	☐	20. Can wireless APs, cameras, or smart devices be deployed without major cabling changes?
☐	☐	☐	21. Is your fiber backbone rated to scale for future building expansions or system rollouts?

DOCUMENTATION, MAINTENANCE & OWNERSHIP

If the network goes down, how fast can your team respond? Good documentation and physical labeling aren't "nice-to-haves"—they're critical. This section covers traceability, access, and how quickly you can regain control when something breaks.

YES	NO	NOT SURE	
☐	☐	☐	22. Are test results, cable maps, and documentation stored, accessible, and easy to understand?
☐	☐	☐	23. Can your team trace a connection from endpoint to switch quickly, without guesswork?
☐	☐	☐	24. Are MDFs/IDFs clean, secured, and used solely for network infrastructure?
☐	☐	☐	25. Do you have an established process for escalation or emergency cabling support?

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT

If you answered **"No"** or **"Not Sure"** to several items, you're not alone. Even well-run facilities can face network issues that lead to failed audits or outages. **Wired Communications** works with hospitals and clinics to assess, document, and upgrade their network infrastructure. Contact us today to schedule a complimentary on-site audit of your network.

SCHEDULE A FREE INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT