

HEALTHCARE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

7 Must-Ask Questions to Vet Your Cabling Provider

IS YOUR CABLING PROVIDER EQUIPPED FOR HEALTHCARE?

Your network infrastructure is the backbone of your healthcare facility. Physicians, nurses, and hospital staff rely on instant access to patient data, imaging systems, and life-saving medical technology. A network failure in a hospital isn't just inconvenient—it can disrupt critical care, delay treatments, and create compliance risks.

Yet, many structured cabling providers approach medical environments the same way they do corporate offices. They fail to consider infection

control protocols, shielding for sensitive medical equipment, or compliance with healthcare regulations. Without a purpose-built infrastructure, hospitals face dropped connections, system congestion, and scalability issues that lead to costly rework.

Before selecting a partner, ask these **seven critical questions** to ensure your network is designed for reliability, compliance, and long-term success in a medical setting.

1

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NETWORK REQUIREMENTS OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES?

Not all networks are built for the demands of a hospital or medical center. Healthcare environments require high-speed, interference-free, and always-on connectivity to support critical applications like communication systems, electronic health records (EHRs), imaging systems, and real-time patient monitoring.



A cabling provider that treats a hospital like a corporate office is a liability. They may not account for:

- **Shielding and grounding** to prevent electromagnetic interference (EMI) that can disrupt sensitive medical equipment.
- **Compliance with infection control standards**, ensuring cable pathways don't compromise sterile environments.
- **Redundancy and failover planning** to prevent downtime in high-stakes medical settings.

A knowledgeable provider should be able to walk you through past hospital installations and explain how they ensured long-term reliability and compliance.

2 DO YOU DESIGN NETWORKS THAT SUPPORT LONG-TERM GROWTH?

A well-designed network should serve your healthcare facility not just today, but years down the line. Moves, Adds, and Changes (MACs) are inevitable in medical environments, whether it's adding new patient monitoring stations, expanding imaging capabilities, or upgrading electronic health record (EHR) systems.

A structured cabling provider should plan for long-term scalability by:

- **Designing adaptable network architecture** that supports expansion without extensive rewiring.
- **Planning for future bandwidth needs** so new medical technologies don't outgrow the infrastructure.
- **Strategically placing MDF/IDF locations** to optimize performance and ensure smooth expansions without unnecessary disruptions.

Your provider should plan for growth from day one—ask how they design for long-term scalability.

3 DO YOU USE HIGH-QUALITY, PROVEN MATERIALS?

In healthcare, cutting corners on cabling isn't just a cost issue—it's a risk to critical systems. A poorly installed or low-grade cabling system can cause interference with critical medical equipment, increase maintenance costs, and shorten infrastructure lifespan.

A structured cabling provider should:

- **Source high-quality, manufacturer-backed materials** to ensure long-term performance and reliability.
- **Use American-made components** that meet strict industry standards for durability and compliance.

- **Follow best practices for shielding and grounding** to protect sensitive medical devices from electromagnetic interference (EMI).
- **Provide manufacturer warranties** to safeguard against early failures and ensure long-term investment protection.

Ask your provider how they guarantee the quality of their materials and whether they stand behind their work with reliable warranties and compliance certifications.





4 DO YOU USE CERTIFIED IN-HOUSE TECHNICIANS OR TEMPORARY CONTRACTORS?

In a healthcare setting, network reliability isn't just about the materials—it's about the expertise of the people installing them. Even the highest-quality cabling can fail if it's not handled by trained professionals.

Some providers cut costs by hiring temporary contractors instead of maintaining a fully trained, in-house team. This can lead to inconsistencies in installation quality, compliance risks, and a lack of accountability. Temporary installers may not:

- **Be fully certified by BICSI**, as well as by the manufacturers whose products they're installing.

- **Follow healthcare-specific protocols**, including infection control and above-ceiling installation standards.
- **Have experience working in live safety environments**, where improper handling can disrupt critical care.

A structured cabling provider should have a dedicated team of BICSI-certified technicians who specialize in healthcare installations. Ask whether your provider relies on subcontractors and if they can guarantee a consistent standard of quality and compliance.

5 DO YOU ENSURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTHCARE STANDARDS?

Healthcare facilities are among the most highly regulated environments, and network infrastructure must meet strict safety, infection control, and compliance standards. A provider that doesn't understand The Joint Commission and DNV accreditation requirements, as well as NEC, NFPA, and OSHA regulations, could put your facility at risk for compliance failures, safety hazards, or costly rework.

Your provider should demonstrate expertise in:

- **The Joint Commission and DNV standards**, including above-ceiling installation requirements, fire safety protocols, and infection control measures.

- **ICRA processes and risk management**, ensuring installations meet infection control guidelines and do not compromise patient safety.
- **Proper cable routing** to maintain clear pathways for emergency power and life safety systems.
- **Documented testing and certification** to verify compliance with structured cabling and healthcare regulations.

The right provider ensures every installation meets hospital safety codes—without delays or compliance risks.

6 DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WORKING IN LIVE SAFETY ENVIRONMENTS?

Hospitals and medical facilities operate 24/7, with no room for disruptions. A structured cabling provider must understand how to work safely in active patient areas while minimizing risk to staff, patients, and critical medical systems.

Your provider should demonstrate expertise in:

- **Performing installations** without disrupting essential hospital functions.
- **Following strict infection control protocols**, including HEPA filtration, containment barriers, and ICRA-permitted procedures.

- **Owning and maintaining dedicated HEPA filtration equipment**, rather than relying on rentals.
- **Coordinating work with hospital staff** to ensure seamless scheduling and minimal patient impact.

Ask how your provider ensures seamless integration with hospital operations, from scheduling to installation to final inspection.

7 DO YOU OFFER ONGOING SUPPORT TO KEEP CRITICAL SYSTEMS RUNNING?

Hospitals and medical facilities rely on 24/7 network uptime to support patient care, diagnostics, and life-saving equipment. A structured cabling provider's job doesn't end at installation—they must be available to support your facility as needs evolve.

Ask your provider about:

- **Availability of local, on-call technicians** to handle urgent issues.
- **Quick response times for Moves, Adds, and Changes (MACs)** to accommodate new medical devices, facility expansions, or technology upgrades.

- **Manufacturer-backed warranties** to ensure long-term reliability and reduce costly repairs.
- **Detailed as-built documentation** to simplify future modifications and expansions.

Your healthcare network should grow with your facility, adapting to new technologies and demands. Make sure your provider has the expertise and readiness to support you every step of the way.

Get Expert Network Solutions for Your Healthcare Facility

Asking the right questions ensures you choose a provider who understands the unique demands of healthcare infrastructure—from compliance to reliability to long-term scalability.

At Wired, we specialize in purpose-built network solutions for hospitals and medical facilities, ensuring seamless performance, zero disruptions, and full regulatory compliance.

Click the button below to see how Wired delivers infrastructure built for healthcare—because when lives are on the line, your network has to work.

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