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Private health group improves its IT structure

AS NHS trusts work to improve their IT structure, the private hospital sector is also getting in on the act with Ramsay Health Care UK selecting Telstra International to support its communications and connectivity requirements.

Telstra International will support premium services by providing the organisation with an advanced Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network which can deliver highly-developed service applications such as the transmission of radiology image packs, as well as enable the sharing of real-time, integrated information between medical teams.

Operating over a network of 40 sites and 23 acute facilities in England, in 2004 Ramsay Health Care UK signed the largest public sector care contract ever awarded to a private provider, a deal which has seen 95,000 NHS patients treated in its specialist centres. Additionally, the company recently launched a 'Premium Care' package solely for private patients.

IT director, Andrew Till, said the new systems were vitally important to the continued quality of the company's health services, adding: "Telstra International's expertise in providing next-generation communications means it is the ideal partner to help us meet these business demands while providing enhanced service delivery and efficiency."

The partnership follows on from the long-term relationship Ramsay Health Care UK's parent company has enjoyed with Telstra, which provides business communication services in Australia.

In addition to supporting advanced applications, the UK contract will also provide fast, reliable and secure connections between the group's hospitals and other treatment centres around the country. The MPLS solution can also be scaled across the UK and Europe as the company continues to grow.

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Telstra International's chief executive, Simon Vye, said: "To support the comprehensive range of specialised, advanced medical services that differentiate Ramsay Health Care UK from its competitors, it is crucial that it can rely on an advanced, resilient network that is able to support bandwidth-heavy applications.

"Our relationship will ensure the company has an IT platform from which it can provide the best possible healthcare in the UK."

Telstra International
Ramsay Health Care UK