Liverpool Women's Hospital prides itself on being the hospital of choice for thousands of expectant mothers. Collectively their team represents some of the most outstanding expertise and experience in their field. As the largest single site maternity hospital in Europe, Liverpool Women’s Hospital is a 24-hour operation involving the work of a dedicated 1,478-strong team. Dr. Zafar Chaudry MD MSc MIS MBA MBCS CITP, Chief Information Officer, for the trust states “the work behind the scenes by our non-clinical teams including Information Management and Technology play an important role in ensuring that everything runs smoothly.”

Security and efficiency

Ensuring the security of the team’s information technology is a critical task. As the current subscription to the previous Panda Security service was coming to an end, consideration was made as to the best security options available moving forwards despite no serious security issues with the Panda solution. Liverpool Women’s Hospital were looking for a solution which could protect the 1000+ endpoints and servers from viruses, ensure spam-free email and provide Internet Content filtering to protect staff and maximise efficiency. With the majority of the sites infrastructure centralised the obvious solution was a network hosted solution with perimeter protection.

The decision was made to continue to entrust the security of the organisation’s internal network with the hassle-free protection provided by Panda Security for Enterprise, which had proven to be a flexible and effective method of securing endpoints and servers.

The increase in Internet traffic through the gateway, due to a combination of greater usage of hosted services and the increase in online threats, had increased the strain on the ageing Panda appliance to the point where the throughput was approaching its threshold.

“The selection process was lengthy,” recalls Dr. Chaudry. “In today’s world of growing threats, the hospital wanted to ensure that it is protected from them all. Previously the trust has relied on a Panda GateDefender for 5 years and it has provided unparalleled gateway protection. However we needed a newer, faster product - the new enterprise level GateDefender Performa 9500 fitted the bill giving us a future-proof solution”.

Panda GateDefender Performa

“Panda is easy to install, easy to use and easy to administer... it just works.”

Dr Zafar Chaudry MD MSc MIS MBA MBCS CITP, Chief Information Officer, Liverpool Women’s Hospital

Liverpool Women’s Hospital
The efficiency of optimised network performance and the security of real-time protection

Installing the latest GateDefender Performa 9500 was “simple” and the in-house IT team were able to transfer the fine-tuned configuration used with the previous appliance ensuring a seamless change over from the old system to the new.

Maximum perimeter security for the hospital was guaranteed as Panda GateDefender Performa’s latest version boasts one of the most advanced hybrid technologies in the market. Its real-time protection detects not only all types of known malware but more importantly, nearly 100% of new unknown “zero day” threats through its integration with Panda’s cloud-based Collective Intelligence.

In addition to protection against content-based threats and best-of-breed protection against malware, spam and unproductive web content, the use of bandwidth-hogs and potentially dangerous protocols such as P2P/IM/VoIP/Spotify can also be restricted. This enables organisations to optimise network performance, a key requisite for the hospital.

Since the hospital has implemented the new security solution they have experienced improvements in performance from the top-of-the-range Panda appliance ensuring no traffic bottlenecks. The new interface is “much easier to use” and the improved reporting options, all help justify the return on technology investment.

Working together hand in glove

“Panda Security provide excellent customer support rather than just product support,” Dr Zafar Chaudry states as an extremely important factor in his decision to continue confiding his IT infrastructure security in Panda Security’s hands. “Though not needed for the appliance upgrade, it is good to know the Panda support team are always on hand when needed.”

To summarise Liverpool Women’s Hospitals experience with Panda Security Dr. Zafar Chaudry comments: “Panda is easy to install, easy to use and easy to administer…it just works”