Since opening in 1905, Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) in Loma Linda, CA, has earned a reputation for world-class patient care and medical technology. In 1990, LLUH pioneered the use of proton therapy treatment, giving more than 30,000 patients a new lease on life. The 1071-bed teaching hospital also operates some of the largest clinical programs in the U.S. and is the international leader in infant heart transplantation.

Unfortunately, this world-renowned medical facility struggled with a basic challenge: providing reliable indoor wireless coverage throughout its campus. Thanks to CommScope and the innovative ERA indoor wireless platform, that challenge has been conquered and LLUH will be more connected, responsive and capable than ever.

Rewriting the rules of indoor coverage

ERA is a unified, flexible digital wireless infrastructure platform noted for its ease of installation and management. The system is technology- and operator-agnostic and capable of supporting multiple service providers on a common infrastructure. This will enable LLUH to continue scaling the system as their physical footprint expands.

Unlike other DAS systems, ERA runs on the standard Category 6A copper and fiber-optic cable already in place in many areas.
Another key for Morton is that ERA supports the hospital’s public safety and paging networks. In fact, it can incorporate a wide variety of radio types, making the DAS platform available for use by different departments such as security and engineering.

"Running ERA on Category 6A gives the hospital the opportunity to support things like Wi-Fi, wireless security cameras and low-voltage lighting off the same cabling infrastructure," added Gary Harrison, CommScope’s lead for the LLUH project team.

Success leads to continued expansion

The ERA platform gives patients and visitors the high-speed, fullsignal service they expect, while providing the secure and reliable communications platform the staff need to continue improving patient care. Carriers are in the process of connecting their networks to the DAS, the final step in making this phase of the project an overwhelming success.

The future for the LLUH/CommScope partnership is bright. The hospital recently broke ground on two new hospitals—one for adults and another for children. Phase I of the expansions will provide an additional million square feet that will complement the current Loma Linda Medical Center and include a new tower for its growing children’s hospital. Over the next few years, future expansions could add another three to four million square feet. CommScope is charged with expanding the existing ERA system to cover the additional areas and buildings across campus. As LLUH continues to grow, ERA will scale effortlessly.

"It's completely changed our perception of DAS," he said. Morton also sees the ERA as a great recruitment tool. "By improving coverage and accessibility across the campus, we’re able to attract and maintain the high caliber of talent that we’re known for," he added.

*R Since initial installation, CommScope has changed the name of this product line from ION-E to ERA.
CommScope pushes the boundaries of communications technology with game-changing ideas and ground-breaking discoveries that spark profound human achievement. We collaborate with our customers and partners to design, create and build the world’s most advanced networks. It is our passion and commitment to identify the next opportunity and realize a better tomorrow. Discover more at commscope.com.