



## **Category 4: Facilities**

### **OPTIONAL**

#### **4.12 Practice creates calming environments using lighting and sound engineering techniques.**

*Note: Not all options for this standard are featured here.*

#### **Sound walls around exam, treatment, wards**

- During the design of the hospital, walls around these spaces can be insulated with sound batt insulation and can be constructed full height with all penetrations sealed to reduce sound leakage between spaces.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Sound-reduction strategies (baffles, ceilings, etc.)**

- High noise-reduction coefficient (NRC) ceiling panels/tiles. These can be placed when the hospital is constructed or can be retrofitted after the hospital is in operation.<sup>2</sup>
- Baffles added to walls or hard ceiling surfaces to reduce sound transmission. Choose baffles with an NRC of at least 1.0.

#### **Masking sound**

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Play classical music, music made for animals, audio-books, or use a white noise machine to mask background noises
- Can be delivered through central speaker systems or simple sound systems in each room
- Should be played at low volume (softly audible from a human perspective)

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<sup>1</sup> Sound Transmission Class (STC) of sound walls should achieve 43 or greater, and the doors and windows within sound walls should achieve an STC of 35 or greater.

<sup>2</sup> Choose cleanable products that achieve the noise reduction criteria. For example, ceiling products made for human hospitals are appropriate.