

PROJECT PROFILE: **HOSPITAL**



PROJECT: ST. PATRICK'S HOSPITAL
Missoula, Montana

Despite being an award-winning hospital, patients repeatedly listed noise as one of the top three complaints during their hospital stay. Big Sky Acoustics was hired to develop noise control measures to reduce noise transmission.

BSA's SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS:

- Completed noise level measurements of hallway noise sources and within patient rooms. The intrusive noise levels were 7 to 34 dBA greater than the background noise levels, indicating that the patient complaints were justified.
- To improve the acoustical environment, many modifications were needed. BSA recommended the following to mitigate the noise:
 - ◇ Replacing the mineral board acoustical ceiling tiles in the corridors, Nurses' Stations and patient rooms.
 - ◇ Installing an electronic sound masking system in the ceiling plenum throughout the patient areas.
 - ◇ Replacing the door latches and wheels on the rolling trash/laundry, medication and food carts.
 - ◇ Adding absorptive panels to the upper corridor walls, and the Nurses' Station walls.
 - ◇ Installing a clear barrier to partially enclose the Nurses' Stations.
- BSA worked with the hospital to develop a cost-benefit rating for each recommendation for effective and reasonable implementation.

The hospital was proactive in listening to patient complaints and hiring an acoustical expert, to provide a better environment for in-patient wellness.

