

Busch-Vishniac.

Hospitals have been developing and implementing noise control programs that can be broken into two categories: engineering and administrative interventions.

Engineering interventions aim to find ways to quiet the room. The solutions can be as simple as closing the door to a patient's room or as complex as installing acoustical absorption materials along the walls and ceiling to dampen the noise level. Administrative interventions focus on changing behaviors. Many hospitals have instituted quiet hours when doors are closed and voices are kept low.

One of the big changes during the past 10 years has shifted alarms from solely sounding at the patient's bedside to also alerting a central monitor at the nursing station. This approach improves the ability of [staff](#) to identify and respond to alarms set at a reduced volume.

According to Busch-Vishniac, it may be possible in the future to remove alarms from the bedside. A quiet [hospital](#) may not be a pipedream for much longer.

More information: Presentation 3pIDa: "Hospital noise: how bad is it?" by Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in Salon E in the New Orleans Marriott.
asa2017fall.abstractcentral.com/s/u/M8hKSrQu66E

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