The Problem

- Patient satisfaction survey results and comments have indicated that noise is a problem.
- One of the publicly reported questions that impacts CMS reimbursement (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services) is about hospital quietness.

The Project

Nursing librarian conducted a thorough literature search related to the following themes:

- Hospitals are noisy
- Hospital noise impacts patient sleep
- Noise impacts health
- Noise impacts patient and family satisfaction
- Noise reduction strategies work

Various noise reduction strategies, including earplugs, sound conditioners, "Yacker Tracker" stop lights, decibel meters, iPad/iPhone apps, and headphones

Outcomes

- Enhanced librarian understanding of information needs of nursing leaders and staff
- Improved librarian awareness of how to best format and disseminate research summary for nursing leaders and staff
- Publicized findings through staff intranet, blog post, and delivered presentations at nursing meetings
- Continued evaluation of the project's impact on patient and practice measures
- Strengthened partnerships between librarians and nursing leaders and staff with continued opportunities for growth