Table 7.1
Sound Transmission Limitations in General Hospitals

	Airborne sound transmission class (STC)[1]	
	Partitions	Floors
New construction[2]		
Patient room to patient room	45	40
Public space to patient room[3]	55	40
Service areas to patient room[4]	65	45
Patient room access corridor[5]	45	45
Exam room to exam room	45	--
Exam room to public space	45	--
Toilet room to public space	45	--
Consultation rooms/conference rooms to public space	45	--
Consultation rooms/conference rooms to patient rooms	45	--
Staff lounges to patient rooms	45	--
Existing construction[2]		
Patient room to patient room	35	40
Public space to patient room[3]	40	40
Service areas to patient room[4]	45	45

[1]Sound transmission class (STC) shall be determined by tests in accordance with methods set forth in ASTM E90 and ASTM E413. *Where partitions do not extend to the structure above, sound transmission through ceilings and composite STC performance must be considered.*

[2]Treatment rooms shall be treated the same as patient rooms.

[3]Public space includes corridors (except patient room access corridors), lobbies, dining rooms, recreation rooms, and similar space.

[4]Service areas include kitchens, elevators, elevator machine rooms, laundries, garages, maintenance rooms, boiler and mechanical equipment rooms, and similar spaces of high noise. Mechanical equipment located on the same floor or above patient rooms, offices, nurses stations, and similar occupied space shall be effectively isolated from the floor.

[5]Patient room access corridors contain composite walls with doors/windows and have direct access to patient rooms.