

HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

**BRONSON  
METHODIST  
HEALTH**

- ▶ Kalamazoo, MI
- ▶ 370 beds
- ▶ [www.bronsonhealth.com](http://www.bronsonhealth.com)

**S.T.E.E.E.P.**



**SAFE**

Pressure ulcers were reduced.



**EFFECTIVE**

Best practices were implemented.

**TEAM MEMBERS**

**Gwen Boyle**

Educator

**Glenn Carlson**

Clinical Nurse Specialist

**Beth Griggs, RN**

Co-Chair of Wound and Skin Committee

**Carol Heimann, RN**

Co-Chair of Wound and Skin Committee

**Neil Johnson, RN**

Vice President, Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer, Executive Sponsor

**Jill Kramer**

Purchasing

**Rita LaReau**

Clinical Nurse Specialist

## REDUCING PRESSURE ULCERS

### The Problem

With the national average of hospital acquired skin breakdown at 4.8 percent, Bronson set out to achieve the best practice benchmark of less than 1.7 percent and reduced pressure ulcers.

### The Solution

Bronson nursing has worked to reduce hospital-acquired skin breakdowns by completing Braden skin assessment on each shift, initiating a skin addendum pathway for all patients at risk, developing a skin map for documentation of a breakdown, conducting a monthly point prevalence to assess compliance and accessing a "Wound Care Treatment Guide" on Bronson's intranet. After three months in a row of increased skin breakdowns in 2007, the clinical quality committee increased a successful 90-day action plan focused on education and reminders to the staff.

### Results

» In 2003, hospital-acquired pressure ulcers were at 9.2 percent. It decreased to 6.1 percent in 2004, 2.6 in 2005, 1.9 in 2006, 2.1 percent in 2007 and a new low of 1.3 percent in 2008.