

HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

**BRONSON  
METHODIST  
HEALTH**

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

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



**SAFE**

With pneumonia infections decreasing, the hospital is a safer place for patients.

**EFFICIENT**



The success of the program has allowed staff to become more efficient in handling pneumonia infections.

**TEAM MEMBERS**

**Kathy Courtney, RN**

Emergency Department Nurse Manager

**Sheryl Bauschke**

Respiratory Therapist

**Glenn Carlson, RN**

Critical Care Nurse

**Carla Cook, RN**

Nurse Manager of Nurse Manager of the Medical ICU and Cardiology, Team Leader

**Sara Forsyth, RN**

Staff Nurse

**Cheryl Knapp**

Vice President of Quality and Safety, Executive Sponsor

**Anne Maihofer, RN**

Education Department

**Gabriel Pedraza, MD**

Medical Director

**Denise Sonier, RN**

Staff Nurse

**Richard Van Enk**

Infectious Disease Director

## IMPROVING CARE BY REDUCING VAP

### The Problem

With mechanical ventilation being a large part of care for critical patients, the need to reduce the risk of infections a patient's endotracheal tube has become critical. With several ways to improve this process, Bronson Methodist Hospital decided to implement a patient safety initiative.

### The Solution

Initiatives, developed by the team and put in place to reduce the risk of pneumonia, were based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The multi-disciplinary patient safety team included staff nurses, the unit manager, the clinical nurse specialist and the medical director of the unit. Four daily monitors were placed on each patient's rounding sheet for evaluation by the patient's medical team. VAP rates were reported back to the department staff monthly and a defined process was developed for screening and confirming the presence of VAP.

### Results

- » Before any initiative was added the Bronson Medical Intensive Care Unit saw 7.6 infections per 1000 ventilator days in 2002. Since then, the rate has declined to 4.1 percent in 2004, and 1.4 in 2005.
- » In 2006 and 2007 the VAP rates were 0.0, while in 2008 they have remained low at 1.5.