

Level 1 News

Fall 2008

Trauma System Responds when Car Hits Tree in Van Buren County

On August 29, 2008, 18-year-old Enrique Andrade was driving in Van Buren County when he lost control of his minivan, crashing it into a tree. Michigan State Police and the Van Buren County Sheriff Department were quick to respond to the crash. Upon smelling gas, the first responders cut the seat belt to quickly extricate their unconscious patient. Coloma Emergency Medical Service then arrived at the scene to take over care of this badly injured patient.

Upon arrival to the scene, Coloma Emergency Medical Service Paramedic Tanya Radny, and EMTs Katrina Walker, Max Streeter, and Michael Mackay assumed care of Enrique. At first assessment, his respiratory rate was 36 breaths per minute, pulse 126, and blood pressure 121/81. He was unresponsive and noted to have non-reactive pupils and shallow rapid respirations. Oxygen was administered and his breathing was assisted with a Bag Valve Mask. Spinal precautions were taken with the placement of a cervical spine collar and backboard. An IV was established and intravenous fluids were administered. West Michigan Air Care (WMAC) was notified to respond to the scene.

WMAC staff members Michael Bussing, EMT-P, Donald Brauning, RN, and Eric McLearn, MD, promptly responded to the scene. They quickly assessed the patient and made the decision *(continued on page 2)*



Trauma team lead F.J. David Leonard-Vidal, MD and neuro-interventional radiologist Patrick Noonan, MD follow up with their patient Enrique Andrade.

Bronson Chest Pain Emergency Center Receives Highest Level of Accreditation

In 2005, Bronson was named the first accredited Chest Pain Emergency Center in southwest Michigan. We are proud to have now received full Cycle II accreditation with PCI from the Society of Chest Pain Centers Accreditation Review Committee on August 25, 2008 — the highest level of accreditation. Bronson has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. *(continued on page 2)*

Why Choose Bronson For Chest Pain?

- More people in Kalamazoo County prefer Bronson for treatment of chest pain.
- Bronson was southwest Michigan's first accredited Chest Pain Emergency Center, and has full Cycle II accreditation with PCI.
- Bronson Chest Pain Center patients receive all needed testing — from blood testing and EKGs to cardiac nuclear stress tests — during their visit.
- Each room is private.
- More people in Kalamazoo County choose Bronson for emergency care.


ACS Verified
LEVEL 1
Adult & Pediatric
Trauma Center

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Southwest
Michigan's Only
Level 1 Adult
& Pediatric
Trauma Center



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(continued) to intubate him. Once his airway was secure, Enrique was quickly transported to Bronson Methodist Hospital's Level I Trauma Center, where the trauma team was awaiting his arrival.

Upon receiving notification from WMAC, Bronson's Alpha (Level I) trauma team was activated and responded to the trauma room in the Trauma & Emergency Center. F.J. David Leonard-Vidal, MD, led the trauma team. Mohammed Elgamal, MD, Trauma Resident; Jeff Haeger, RN, T&EC; Sherrie Toth, RN, T&EC; and Ken Rourke, RN, T&EC, were members of the trauma team. Upon patient arrival, Dr. Leonard-Vidal completed a primary and secondary assessment. Trauma labs, X-rays, and computed tomography (CT) scans were completed. Enrique was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury, rib fractures, right clavicle fracture, right pneumothorax, and right subclavian artery pseudoaneurysm. A chest tube was placed on the right to decompress the pneumothorax.

Dr. Patrick Noonan, Neurointerventional Radiologist, Dr. Joseph Chess, Orthopedic Surgeon, and Dr. Jeffrey Fletcher, Neurointensivist, were consulted to help manage Enrique's complex care. Enrique was then admitted to the Trauma Care Unit (TCU), less than three hours from the time his crash occurred.

Enrique was hospitalized for 15 days in the TCU and required multiple interventions during this time, including endovascular treatment of the pseudoaneurysm, tracheostomy and placement of a feeding tube. The rehabilitation team worked hard with Enrique to get him up and moving, and on September 12, 2008, he was discharged home with his family to continue rehabilitation at an outpatient facility.

Bronson wishes to extend a special thank you to the Trauma & Emergency Center and Trauma Care Unit staff, as well as to all members of the Multidisciplinary Trauma Team, for providing excellent care and support to Enrique and his family throughout his hospitalization. Thank you to the Coloma Emergency Medical Service and West Michigan Air Care staff who provided excellent care both at the scene and during transport to Bronson. Everyone involved in the care of this patient worked extremely hard to provide rapid extrication, timely transport, appropriate interventions, and excellent care to this critically injured patient!

— Rita Cox, RN, BSN
Trauma Program Manager

Bronson to Launch Blood Conservation Service

The goal of Bronson's newly formed Blood Conservation Service is to reduce the amount of blood we transfuse as a health system. Rather than one simple solution, blood conservation seeks to apply several different approaches to address the specific needs of patients. Each technique — be it preoperative, intraoperative or postoperative — has the capability of conserving the patient's own blood. This approach can reduce or eliminate completely the need for a blood transfusion, reducing our dependence on donated blood.

Studies continue to show that blood conservation has many benefits to our patients, including less exposure to emerging viruses and infections, reduction of post-operative infections, faster recovery time, improved patient outcomes and decreased morbidity and mortality.

Transfusion-free medicine is becoming the standard of care at a growing number of facilities. The long-held attitude that patients who refuse blood receive sub-par healthcare is changing. Bronson has the techniques and equipment to make blood conservation a safe and effective treatment. For questions about blood conservation, contact the blood conservation coordinator, Warren Behr at behrw@bronsonhg.org.

Bronson Chest Pain Emergency Center Receives Highest Level of Accreditation (continued)

Key areas in which a Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures

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- Ensuring Chest Pain Center personnel competency and training
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack

We could not have achieved this level of accreditation without you, our EMS providers. Thank you for working so well with us to get patients experiencing chest pain to the emergency department promptly. Care begins in the field and it is because of your knowledge, training and desire to do what's best for the patient that this accreditation was possible.

No wonder why more people in Kalamazoo County prefer Bronson for treatment of chest pain and emergency care.

Get your flu shot!

Influenza is one of the most serious vaccine-preventable diseases in the US, causing significant illness and death among US citizens each year. Healthcare workers can acquire and spread influenza to their patients, colleagues and families, removing them from the workforce and contributing to the disease burden.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all healthcare staff, **including EMS providers**, be immunized against influenza every year. Please visit bronsonhealth.com/flu for more information on where you can get your flu shot.

Ortho Surgical Unit Completes Expansion

As part of ongoing efforts to expand capacity and provide optimal care for patients, Bronson opened 12 all-private patient rooms on Monday, August 25 on the South Campus as part of the Ortho Surgical Unit (OSU). This expansion completes the build-out of the OSU that began last September when the OSU opened 28 new licensed beds and brings Bronson's total bed count to 380.

Spotlight: John Scott of Pride Care Ambulance

For the past 15 years, John Scott has been a full-time paramedic in Kalamazoo County. John started working as a paramedic in 1992 with the former Mall City Ambulance before transitioning to LifeCare Ambulance in 1996. John returned to Kalamazoo, currently working for Pride Care Ambulance, after his wife Beth was diagnosed with breast cancer.

John and Beth have two sons, Dayton and Daniel. Dayton is married and has a daughter, Natalie. Daniel is currently going to school. Beth was so excited with the birth of their granddaughter, Natalie, and was able to enjoy being present in her life for a few good months; becoming a grandmother was one of her goals. Beth continued to fight even after her cancer spread. She and John talked about the "what ifs," so they were ready for what life would bring their way. Their granddaughter was baptized in Beth's room at Rose Arbor as Beth was lying in a coma. After an 8½ year battle with cancer, John lost his wife of 26 years. John was thankful for all the support he received from staff at both hospitals and his EMS peers.

When John is not working, he is riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. This is a hobby he has enjoyed since he was 16



When not working for Pride Care, John is probably out riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

years old. One question always asked is why John rides a motorcycle when he sees so many accidents in his line of work. John's answer is a simple one, "Life is short and not always fair, so go enjoy it and have fun."

John and his family continue to move on with their lives. On August 8, 2008, he married Robin Alday. Robin is employed at Bronson HealthAnswers. Kalamazoo mayor Bobby Hopewell, also still a licensed paramedic, married the couple.

John's new bride loves to ride motorcycles and the newlyweds plan to buy a Harley Davidson Ultra Classic in the near future so that they can camp and see the country from the bike. One thing they have figured out is to not sweat the small things. It's not worth it. Life is too short!

Bronson Leading the Nation in Performance Improvement

Bronson Methodist Hospital has been named a recipient of the 2007 Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals® Performance Improvement Leaders award. This award from Thomson Reuters (formerly Solucient) recognizes hospitals whose boards, management teams and medical staff leadership have achieved the fastest five-year rate of consistent organization-wide improvement in the industry. It also recognizes an organization's ability to convert its vision, mission and goals into action and build a culture of sustained performance improvement.



Bronson Receives Surgical Improvement Mentor Award

Bronson Methodist Hospital received the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) Mentor Award from MPRO, Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization for a strong commitment to accelerating improvement by actively disseminating best practice and knowledge within the SCIP 6 Collaborative. SCIP is a national quality partnership of organizations committed to improving the safety of surgical care through the reduction of postoperative complications. The ultimate goal of the partnership is to save lives by reducing the incidence of surgical complications by 25 percent by the year 2010. For the past three years, Bronson has partnered with hospitals in six other states to work on improving outcomes in surgical care and is being recognized for leadership.

Bronson Named One of the Best Places for Working Moms

For the sixth consecutive year, Bronson has been named by *Working Mother* magazine as one of the nation's "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers." The *Working Mother* 100 Best list includes industries and organizations of all sizes as it recognizes those employers in the United States that have achieved excellence in the workplace environment. Bronson is one of only four companies in Michigan on the 2008 list (others are Chrysler, Dow Corning, Dow Chemical), and of the four, is the only non-profit.



Consumers Once Again Choose Bronson for Quality

National Research Corporation (NRC) recently presented Bronson Methodist Hospital with the 2008/2009 Consumer Choice Award for the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area. This is the sixth year in a row that Bronson has been the hospital chosen as providing the highest quality healthcare. As an organization dedicated to being a national leader in healthcare quality, it is very rewarding to know that area residents as well as our patients, employees and medical staff view Bronson as the best hospital in the area.

Compare Hospital Performance Online

How can you help friends, family and neighbors find out which hospital is best? One resource is Hospital Compare (www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov) a

government website where the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) post hospital performance data from every U.S. hospital. CMS just released Medicare mortality rates for heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia on the website, along with more than two dozen other measures that demonstrate how well hospitals are performing and meeting patients' needs.

The latest data indicates that overall Bronson is performing favorably compared to other hospitals both locally and nationally. A highlight is Bronson Methodist Hospital's results for treating pneumonia, a common illness of the lungs that affects all ages and is a leading cause of death among the elderly and the chronically and terminally ill. Nationally, an average

of 11.4 percent of Medicare pneumonia patients died within 30 days of hospital admission. Bronson's risk-adjusted rate was 8.6 percent, which is 25 percent better than the national average. Bronson Methodist Hospital is one of only two hospitals in the state of Michigan and one of 41 hospitals in the United States to achieve this outcome level.

Level 1 News

Bronson Level I News is published quarterly by Bronson Methodist Hospital. The information included is intended to educate and inform the southwestern Michigan emergency medical services community. Correspondence/Change of Address information should be directed to the Executive Editor at One Healthcare Plaza Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Phone: (269) 341-6328 Fax: (269) 341-7574 bronsonhealth.com

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