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.