



# Level 1 News

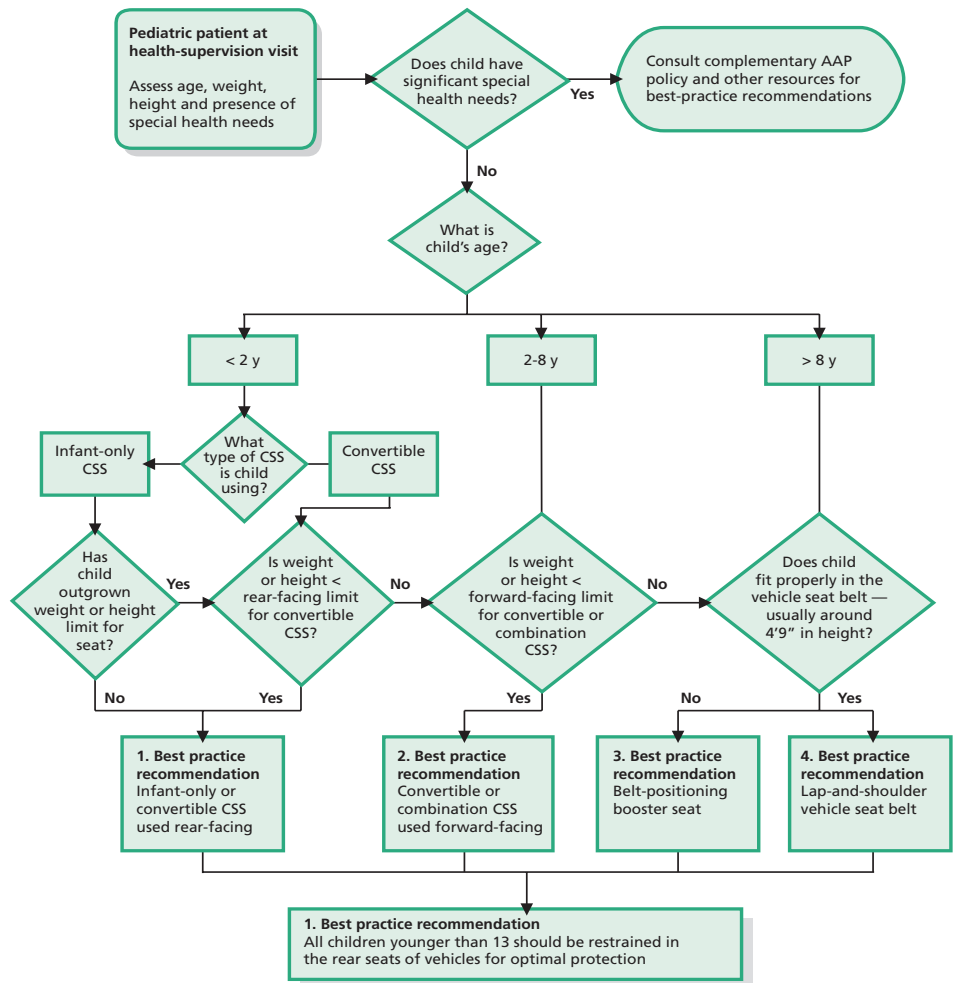
Spring 2011

## Child Passenger Safety Guidelines Updated

In the April issue of *Pediatrics*, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) revised their policy statement on the use of car safety seats (CSS) for children. The new recommendations are to keep most children in a rear-facing CSS until they reach two years of age and/or the weight limit of the rear-facing CSS. Additionally, the AAP advocates that most children remain in forward-facing car seats until four years of age and belt-positioning booster seats until eight years of age. All children who have outgrown booster seats should use lap-and-shoulder belts. Furthermore, all children 13 years of age and younger should ride in the backseat of the car rather than in the front seat. The flow chart on this page is available to aid providers in guiding parents to the best choice of CSS for their child.

The full-text of the revised policy from the AAP is available online at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;127/4/788.pdf>.

The recommendations for adults have not changed. Using a seat belt on every trip is the most effective way to prevent injury and death. Many studies have validated the fact that seat belts reduce the risk of serious injury and death by approximately 50 percent. Additional information can be found at the Centers for Disease (continued on page 2)



## BMH Again Earns Spot on Nation's 100 Top Hospitals List

Bronson Methodist Hospital is again rated among the 100 best hospitals in the country. Thomson Reuters annual 100 Top Hospitals® study identified Bronson as the only hospital in southwest Michigan to earn a spot as one of the United States' top performing hospitals. This is Bronson's third time on the 100 Top Hospitals list for overall organizational performance. Bronson appreciates EMS providers' role in helping us with the 10 areas of performance — mortality; medical complications; patient safety; average patient stay; expenses; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; post-discharge mortality;

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and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, and pneumonia. We're a top 100 hospital because of the team commitment to great patient care in southwest Michigan!



# Child Passenger Safety Guidelines Updated

(continued) Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/>.

In addition to being the safest thing to do, the State of Michigan requires that all drivers and passengers are restrained in the vehicle. The requirements vary by age and size of the vehicle occupant. The box to the right summarizes current Michigan law.

The full-text of the requirements for restraint use can be found online at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/safety\\_belt\\_8581\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/safety_belt_8581_7.pdf). Please note, however, that the legal requirements for restraint use are not as stringent as the recommendations from the CDC and the AAP. Always follow the most conservative guidelines whenever possible to achieve maximum safety.

## Thank You for Supporting Kids Burn Camp!

Kids Burn Camp provides a fun and caring environment where burned children can play together and support one another. This year, Bronson Methodist Hospital sent six children who had been treated for serious burn injuries to burn camp. The camp was held February 19 and 20 at the Impression 5 Museum in Lansing, Michigan. The campers had the chance to play and learn in a hands-on science museum during an overnight lock-in. The campers were chaperoned by Jeanine Conner, RN, healthcare compliance auditor; Jennifer Lechota, RN, injury prevention coordinator; Wendy Stewart, RN, in the Burn & Wound Clinic; and April Turner, RN, in TCU. Kids Burn Camp is a partnership between Bronson Methodist Hospital, University of Michigan Health System and Spectrum Health. The summer session of Kids Burn Camp will be held June 19-24 at Camp Manitou-Lin in Middleville, Michigan. Interested volunteers should contact Jennifer Lechota, RN, at 341-8587 or [lechotaj@bronsonhg.org](mailto:lechotaj@bronsonhg.org).

AGE	RESTRAINT
<b>0-3 years</b>	All passengers shall be properly secured in approved child restraint system positioned in the rear seat.
<b>4-7 years</b> and < 4'9" in height	All passengers shall be properly secured in approved child restraint system.
<b>4-7 years</b> and > 4'9" in height or 8-15 years	All passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt
<b>16 years and older</b>	Driver and front seat passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt.

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

It's springtime, the season when high school students tend to celebrate, starting with receiving a driver's license, spring break, the prom, graduation parties and culminating with a long summer vacation. It's also the time when teens can experience the consequences of drinking too much, at too early an age. As a result, underage drinking is a leading public health problem in this country.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Bronson Trauma Surgery Services encourages community members to educate themselves and then talk to teens about alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and other risky behaviors. Alcohol remains the No. 1 drug problem for adolescents. According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, "adolescents use alcohol more frequently than they do all other illicit drugs combined." The

rates of current alcohol use in the survey were 3.5 percent among youth aged 12 and 13, 13.0 percent among 14 and 15-year-olds, and 26.3 percent among 16 and 17-year-olds. More than one million adolescents needed treatment for alcohol abuse, although the vast majority did not receive it.

Alcohol use can be a major factor in motor vehicle crashes, overdoses, homicides, suicides and unintentional injuries, which are some of the leading causes of death among youth. The teenage years can be a volatile time of life as teens' physical and emotional states are constantly changing. They are living in a society that places demands on them to "grow up much too fast." When they add alcohol to this mix, they have a recipe for the potential of life-threatening and life-long consequences.

## Bronson Quality Ranked Among National Top Five Percent For Third Straight Year

For a third consecutive year, Bronson Methodist Hospital has been recognized as a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence™ in an independent study conducted by HealthGrades, the nation's most trusted source of health care provider information. This distinction secures Bronson's place among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation for overall clinical quality.

HealthGrades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence study objectively identifies those hospitals in the U.S. with the best overall clinical performance across 26 common medical diagnoses and procedures. The study analyzed Medicare patient data from virtually every hospital in the country (approximately 40 million

Medicare discharges for years 2007, 2008, 2009) and assigned a 1-star, 3-star or 5-star performance rating.

Bronson is one of just 268 hospitals to achieve overall quality outcomes high enough to be named a 2011 Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence™.

HealthGrades' research indicates patients who receive care at a top performing hospital like Bronson have a 29.82 percent lower risk of dying while hospitalized, and 1.91 percent lower risk of having in-hospital complications. If all hospitals in the U.S. performed to this standard, 158,684 Medicare lives could potentially have been saved and 3,511 Medicare in-hospital complications could potentially have been avoided.

# Spotlight on: South Haven Area Emergency Services

South Haven Area EMS  
90 Blue Star Highway  
South Haven, MI 49090  
Ron Wise, Chief

Ron Wise is a man who loves his job because of his staff, board and all around community support for South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES). Three years ago, Ron was promoted to the chief of South Haven Area Emergency Services and has experienced a very easy transition into his new role. His promotion also allowed for a new deputy chief and two new captains in the department. Ron states that SHAES is a very diverse and family oriented department. In fact, Ron hired the very first female firefighter/paramedic for the department. SHAES has been in existence since 1996 when the area formed a fire authority after the city fire department was contracted by South Haven Township for ambulance services. Slowly, the other areas they served joined the fire authority to help with the budget, but mainly as a resource for the entire community. Ron stated that there are no issues between all the areas. The politics are pushed aside for the good of the community to make this system work and work well now for 15 years.

SHAES stays very busy throughout the year, especially with South Haven's summer shoreline and influx of seasonal vacation population that can increase by 40 percent. Fortunately, SHAES has the department and equipment to back it up. To put the influx of summer population into perspective, the current South Haven population of permanent residents is 14,770 from the 2010 census. SHAES has approximately 1,700 Fire/Rescue/EMS calls annually, which encompass a service area of 121 square miles. SHAES responds to emergencies in the city of South Haven, South Haven Township, Geneva Township, and Casco Township (just inside Allegan County). They support three stations, one each in the city of South Haven, Geneva Township, and Casco Township, but only have full-time coverage at the main station in the city and one eight-hour shift at an outlying station. SHAES has mutual aid agreements with Bangor, Columbia and Ganges townships for fire and Covert FD, Pride Care Ambulance Western Operations, and AMR for ambulance calls.

To keep SHAES running smoothly, Ron has a total full-time staff of 13 fire-



Chief Ron Wise has a staff of 13 full-time fire-fighter/paramedics and manages equipment that includes a platform truck, engine, tanker trucks, grass rigs, three ambulances and a 19 ½' Zodiac fireboat.

fighter/paramedics, including himself and his deputy chief. There is a minimum of two crew members on duty at the main station, usually on weekends and nights, but throughout the days there are an additional two crew members. They do have some part-time staff for call back to cover the station if the primary crews are out on a response. All crews receive regular training on confined space, rope rescue, extrication, water rescue, as well as regular EMS continuing education. SHAES even has their own confined space and propane training grounds that were donated by various community businesses and contractors. To help keep his staff well educated and trained, there are two EMS instructor/coordinators, one NIMS/CBRNE instructor, and five firefighter training council instructors.

SHAES has two ALS licensed ambulances, and one BLS licensed ambulance that can be upgraded to ALS status if needed. They also have a platform truck, engine, tanker trucks, grass rigs and now a 19 ½' Zodiac fireboat. The boat has been called out for some fires on boats in Lake Michigan.

Ron also boasts of much of the excellent equipment that his budget allows for, including Rad 57 carbon monoxide monitors, auto vent 1000, 12 lead monitors, and Stryker stair chairs. One piece of equipment that has helped dramatically decrease staff back injuries has been the electric Stryker cots. One of the newest pieces of equipment that the department has is a Hurst MOC cutter to cut through Boron that is used in newer vehicles. Due to their proximity of a nuclear power plant, SHAES also utilizes the Nuke Alert radiation dosimetry. They also participate in on-site and off-site drills with the Palisades plant and are evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

So, if you are in the South Haven area, know that they have an excellent emergency response if you are ever in need of help. Stop by for a brief tour and see for yourself how prepared they are!

Bronson salutes South Haven Area EMS for their dedication and commitment to their community!

— Tim Owen, EMS Liaison

## Bronson Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

### HealthCare Midwest + K Valley Orthopedics

Bronson, HealthCare Midwest and K Valley Orthopedics, P.C./Southwestern Michigan Sportsmedicine Clinic have partnered to form Bronson Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, the area's most comprehensive multi-disciplinary group of orthopedic and sports medicine physicians. Twenty-three physicians represent a wide variety of orthopedic subspecialties including fellowship-trained foot; ankle and lower extremity trauma; hand, wrist and elbow; adult reconstructive surgery of the hip and knee; microvascular surgery; spine disorders; sports medicine; and orthopedic trauma.

Bronson is now facilitating professional fee billing for HealthCare Midwest ortho-

pedic services and K Valley Orthopedics, P.C./Southwestern Michigan Sportsmedicine Clinic. This means that patients will receive a Bronson bill for professional services provided by physicians and mid-level providers associated with Bronson Orthopedics & Sports Medicine. All other aspects of their visits — scheduling, location, etc. — will remain the same. Doctors and their patients will continue to select and use the hospital of their choice.

Bronson and our partner physicians will be working through this relationship to find new ways to collaborate to improve quality and efficiency of care. Visit [bronsonortho-sportsmed.com](http://bronsonortho-sportsmed.com) to learn more.

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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. Want to receive Level I News? Need to Change your address or be taken off our mailing list? Contact the Executive Editor at 601 John Street, Box 19, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Phone: (269) 341-6328. Fax: (269) 341-7574. bronsonhealth.com

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**Coming Together to Celebrate the Everyday Heroes of Southwest Michigan**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011  
11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Kalamazoo Public Safety Training Center (station 45)  
601 N. Park St., Kalamazoo**



**share**  
bronsonpositivity.com

**“Share Your Positivity”  
Website Launched**

Go to BronsonPositivity.com to read patient experiences, share your patient experience, or add a note about a Bronson employee. You can also e-mail your questions to positivity@bronsonhg.org.

**Workshops**

- Trauma: Thursday, April 28**
- Cardiac: Monday, May 16**
- Neuro: Thursday, September 22**
- Burn: Tuesday, October 11**

These workshops are open to all and are held from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Gilmore Center for Health Education on the north campus of Bronson Methodist Hospital. EMS credits are available.

For more information or to register, call Bronson Education Services at (269) 341-6405.