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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **ANA honors Michigan nurse for immunization program that incorporates occupational health, patient safety, and public health registries**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – William Corder, RN, MSA, has received the American Nurses Association (ANA) Immunity Award for November. Corder is the ProHealth Services manager at Bronson, which implemented a broad-based immunization program for the 5,000-employee, not-for-profit health care system based in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Corder received the award for implementing Bronson's influenza and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) employee immunization program. He also has incorporated Bronson Methodist Hospital, Bronson LakeView Hospital, and Bronson Vicksburg Hospital in the state immunization registry.

Corder led the planning and implementation of an employee influenza immunization program for direct patient care staff in 2005, and expanded it the following year to include physicians. Bronson reports that since its influenza immunization program began, its hospitals have not recorded any cases of hospital-acquired transmission of influenza to patients.

In response to another public health and occupational safety threat, Corder began a Tdap vaccine program to protect staff against an outbreak of pertussis in 2006. The vaccine is required for all new employees.

Corder also has demonstrated a commitment to immunization infrastructure and coordination. Under his direction, Bronson became the first hospital system in Michigan to register as a user in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), which manages immunization records of Michigan residents. As a result, every Bronson employee was added to the database, providing quick and easy access for their primary care providers to review adult immunization records. This effort represents an often-missing connection between public health and employer-based immunization programs.

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Corder also has been involved in increasing immunity in the Kalamazoo community by establishing influenza vaccination clinics at local employers. He shares immunization practices that work with other hospitals by serving on the Michigan Quality Council.

ANA grants the Immunity Award every month as part of its Bringing Immunity to Every Community project. ANA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are collaborating on the project, which focuses on maximizing nurses' role in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. The project seeks to increase nurses' knowledge and competency in immunization, to encourage nurses to be vaccinated, and to position nurses as leading advocates for immunization among peers, patients, and the public.

RNs can apply for the ANA Immunity Award, either through self-nomination or nomination by a peer, online through Bringing Immunity to Every Community's website, [www.ANAimmunize.org](http://www.ANAimmunize.org), a one-stop shop for resources nurses need to be competent, educated advocates for immunizations.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*

### **About Bronson**

*Bronson Methodist Hospital, located at 601 John St. in downtown Kalamazoo, Mich., is the flagship of Bronson Healthcare Group, a not-for-profit healthcare system serving all of southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. With 405 licensed beds and all private rooms, Bronson Methodist Hospital provides care in virtually every specialty — cardiology, orthopedics, surgery, emergency medicine, neurology, oncology — with advanced capabilities in critical care as a Level I Trauma Center; in neurological care as a Joint Commission certified Primary Stroke Center; in cardiac care as the region's first accredited Chest Pain Emergency Center; in obstetrics as the leading BirthPlace and only high-risk pregnancy center in southwest Michigan, and in pediatrics as one of only five children's hospitals in the state.*

*Bronson serves the largest percentage of Medicaid patients in the area and provides a substantial benefit to the community through outreach and charitable care. It is the recipient of the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest presidential honor for quality and organizational performance excellence. In 2009, the hospital received the AHA McKesson Quest for Quality Prize awarded annually to only one U.S. hospital, was named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Thomson Reuters, and joined the top five percent of hospitals in the nation to be designated a Magnet Hospital for Nursing Excellence. Bronson is also ranked in the top five percent of hospitals in the nation as a 2009-10 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence.*