

**THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CRITICAL CARE NURSES HAVE OF EVIDENCE-BASED
PRACTICE IN THEIR PRACTICE**

by

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SUPERVISOR: PROF MM MOLEKI

CO-SUPERVISOR: MS JE TJALLINKS

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Student number: 431-853-6

DECLARATION

I declare that **THE KNOWLEDGE THAT CRITICAL CARE NURSES HAVE OF EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN THEIR PRACTICE** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.


Des-Franco Miller

25 February 2013

Date

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to explore and describe the knowledge that a cohort of 40 intensive care unit nurses had of evidence-based practice. It was assumed that they lacked the knowledge to locate, evaluate understand and apply research findings. Quantitative, non-experimental descriptive research was conducted to explore their knowledge and to formulate recommendations for promoting it. Data collection involved administering a structured questionnaire administered to the cohort in an intensive care unit. The findings revealed that, although they were familiar with the basic concept of evidence-based practice, they were reluctant and lacked the skills to adopt it in their practice. It is recommended that they be trained and empowered to develop research expertise from within their own ranks. Finally it is recommended that nursing management should play a more proactive role in identifying cost-effective strategies in overcoming barriers to finding, promoting and integrating evidence-based practice.

KEY CONCEPTS

Evidence-based practice; registered nurses; critical care nurses; barriers; intensive care unit.

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my friend and partner Emil Ogg in whom I have found an ardent admirer and whose biggest compliment has been emulating me in my pursuit of education.

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