

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

by

**DES FRANCO ABIATTOR MILLER**

submitted in accordance with the requirements  
for the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS**

in the subject

**HEALTH STUDIES**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

SUPERVISOR: PROF MM MOLEKI

CO-SUPERVISOR: MS JE TJALLINKS

JUNE 2013

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

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

STUDENT NUMBER: 431-853-6  
STUDENT: DES FRANCO ABIATTOR MILLER  
DEGREE: MASTER OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT: HEALTH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
SUPERVISOR: PROF. MM MOLEKI  
CO-SUPERVISOR: MS JE TJALLINKS

## **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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge a large debt of gratitude to:

- My partner, Mr Emil Ogg, for his unconditional love, support, understanding and encouragement.
- My friend, Mr Albert Harold, for his persistence, continual support and encouragement and for his sterling editing of this work.
- A special thanks to my supervisor, Prof M Moleki, for her guidance, invaluable feedback on the work in progress and unwavering support without which this research would not have been completed.
- My co-supervisor, Ms JE Tjallinks, for her generous support and guidance.
- My former colleagues at Mercy Merced Medical Centre for their willingness to participate in this study.
- My former Nursing Services Director, Mr Mars Leffard, for granting me permission to conduct this study.

## *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.*

*I also dedicate this to his unselfish love and affection and above all this patience in waiting for me.*