

## ABSTRACT

### NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND EVIDENCE-BASED NURSING PRACTICE

by

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Over the past decade, nurse researchers have assessed generalist and advanced practice nurses' use of evidence-based practice (EBP) in a variety of practice settings. Despite the voluminous published literature regarding EBP, very few studies have addressed EBP by nurse practitioners. The objective of this research was to assess nurse practitioners' beliefs and attitudes about and their implementation of evidence-based practice. This exploratory descriptive study surveyed nurse practitioners in Tennessee. The majority of the respondents were Caucasian females 42 years of age, with a master's degree as a family nurse practitioner practicing in primary care. The Beliefs Scale scores indicated that the NPs held fairly positive beliefs about EBP. However, the EBP Implementation Scale scores indicated that the NPs did not implement EBP very actively in their daily NP practices. There were no statistically significant findings among demographic variables and the Beliefs or Implementation Scales. NPs with more positive beliefs and attitudes about EBP were more likely to implement EBP in their daily NP practices. NPs tend to have positive beliefs and attitudes about EBP, but their implementation of EBP is not consistent with their beliefs. Findings emphasize the need for EBP in NP practitioner education, for access to evidence-based information at point of care, and for NPs to possess the skills to implement EBP in order to improve the care they provide to patients.