

# Chapter 19

## A Study on Nurses' Knowledge of Advanced Practice in Healthcare

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### ABSTRACT

*Advanced practice in healthcare expands nurses' roles and requires advanced skills and knowledge. This study assessed nurses' understanding of advanced practice through a cross-sectional survey using a self-administered questionnaire. The ques-*

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-6730-8.ch019

*tionnaire covered demographic characteristics and knowledge of advanced practice. Results revealed a significant lack of knowledge among the participants. Although most professionals had some understanding of advanced practice in healthcare, there were many gaps in key areas such as objectives, roles of practitioners and skills required. Questions about the differences between nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists, as well as factors associated with the emergence of advanced practice in healthcare, elicited incorrect or uncertain responses from many participants. To maximize the benefits of advanced practice nursing, continuous education and collaboration among healthcare professionals are essential. This approach will enhance care quality and accessibility, addressing challenges like doctor shortages and the need for complex care.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Knowledge and innovation are fundamental pillars of economic growth and social well-being. Indeed, in a knowledge-based economy, the accumulation of advanced skills and innovation make it possible to respond to social and economic challenges while strengthening resilience and sustainability. (McKinsey, 2023). The importance of this dynamic is particularly evident in societies where a significant proportion of the population accesses higher education and actively contributes to research and development. (Morin & Eicher, 2012). These efforts foster the creation of innovative solutions in various fields, including healthcare, to meet growing demand and address the complex challenges facing modern healthcare systems. In this sense, investments in education, digitization and social protection are becoming essential levers for improving overall well-being and stimulating inclusive, sustainable growth. (Boston Consulting Group, 2023). At the same time, healthcare needs are changing rapidly as a result of a number of factors, including the accelerated ageing of the world's population and the growing prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. These new challenges call for innovative approaches to care, incorporating advanced knowledge as well as interdisciplinary management and leadership skills, in order to coordinate integrated, personalized care. Furthermore, the global shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas, has encouraged the development of advanced nursing practices (ANPs) to fill gaps in access to primary care, contributing to the goal of universal health coverage. (Bryant-Lukosius & DiCenso, 2017) a recognized priority for improving global health. (World Health Organization, 2010)

Indeed, the evolution of nurses' contribution to the provision of care is now becoming a key element in improving healthcare, which is becoming increasingly complex, requiring in-depth knowledge and understanding of diseases, treatments and

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