Medical Practitioners perspectives of Australian Nurse Practitioner practice.

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Introduction: Evaluating Medical practitioners (MP) perspectives of Nurse practitioners (NP) scope of practice utilising a validated tool; the ‘Perspectives of Physicians and Nurse Practitioners on Primary Care Practice’ (Donelan et al, 2013) has not been reported locally. Within the literature there are mixed accounts of Medical Practitioner’s perspectives of NP practice. There are over 1200 NPs endorsed across varied roles within Australia (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, 2014).

Objective: The research question for this study emerged through a review of the literature of NP practice and the perceived barriers and enablers to their practice in Australia. The possibility of strengthening the largest component of the Australian health care workforce to become partners and leaders in improving the delivery of team-based care and the health care of the public forms the basis of this enquiry.

Method: This prospective study will employ a cross-sectional design. An online questionnaire will be distributed using Qualtrics software to MPs who have experience working with NPs in Australia. The questionnaire comprises 29 questions addressing sociodemographic data, and the Attitudes about the Scope of Practice of Nurse Practitioners outcome measure (Donelan et al., 2013).

Results: The study will be conducted in the first quarter of 2016. Analysis will be undertaken using descriptive and inferential testing with presentation and publication of outcomes to be completed late 2016.

Conclusion: Findings from this project will inform future NP developments at the local, state and federal level and will benefit of the public, the health care sector and our profession.