

## **The development of Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinical Practice Standards through national research on ENP Practice Profiles**

In Australia, Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs) are the largest and fastest growing group of Nurse Practitioners (Middleton et al, 2011). Nurse Practitioners are guided and regulated by the existing generic NP competency standards (NMBA, 2014); there are no existing specialty NP competencies within Australia.

The aim of the research conducted in late 2012 and 2013 was to investigate the parameters of practice and practice profile of ENP's across Australia to develop specialty clinical practice standards.

This research utilised a mixed methods, exploratory sequential design (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011). The study used multiple data sources including individual interviews with 20 ENPs that explored the experiential aspects of ENP service in different geographical and clinical contexts of practice, published and grey literature on ENP practice and a national Delphi study for development and validation of ENP standards.

This research demonstrated that the parameters of practice for ENPs in Australia embrace all aspects of emergency care. The developed practice standards incorporate these aspects as ENPs work across the breadth of the Emergency Department in 'modes of practice' that depict how they work (O'Connell, 2015).

This paper will explicate the development of specialty emergency nurse practitioner standards that could influence how ENPs are educationally prepared for their specialty practice and how existing ENPs could expand their current practice using the standards to guide their ongoing professional development.

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## References

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