

Nurse certification may promote evidence-based practice in ICU

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(HealthDay)—Nurses with specialty certification may speed translation

of evidence-based research into everyday clinical practice, according to a study published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Critical Care*.

Kristin Hittle Gigli, Ph.D., R.N., from the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues conducted an [online survey](#) of 268 nurses in 12 adult intensive care units across six hospitals in a single, integrated health care system. The survey assessed the relationships between critical care nurses' [education level](#) and specialty certification, their individual psychosocial beliefs about their place on the [intensive care unit](#) team (professional identity, self-efficacy, and role clarity), and their perceptions of evidence-based practices used in the intensive care unit.

The researchers found that 71 percent of respondents had a bachelor of science degree or [higher education](#) and 26 percent had critical care certification. Certified nurses reported greater knowledge of spontaneous breathing trials and lung-protective ventilation compared with noncertified nurses. Certified nurses also reported significantly higher self-efficacy and role clarity compared with noncertified nurses. There was an association between certification and greater perceived value in specific practices (daily interruption of sedation: adjusted odds ratio, 2.5; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.0 to 6.3; $P = 0.05$; lung-protective ventilation: adjusted odds ratio, 1.9; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.1 to 3.3; $P = 0.03$). There was no association between education level and greater knowledge of or perceived value in evidence-based practices.

"Supporting specialty certification among nurses is a plausible way to assist with the adoption of evidence-based practices as a means to improve intensive care unit quality and should be evaluated further," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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