



Evidence Brief: The Quality of Care Provided by Advanced Practice Nurses

September 2014

Prepared for:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative
Health Services Research & Development Service
Washington, DC 20420

Prepared by:

Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP)
Coordinating Center
Portland VA Medical Center
Portland, OR
Mark Helfand, MD, MPH, MS, Director

Investigators:

Ellen McCleery, MPH
V

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This evidence brief discovered little new evidence regarding health outcomes of patients receiving care from an independent advanced practice nurse (APRN) or physician. In primary and urgent care settings, there was no difference in health status, quality of life, mortality, or hospitalizations favoring either APRN or physician care, although the strength of evidence was generally low (see Table 1).

Table 1. Evidence Summary

Outcome (Setting)	Results	Strength of evidence
Health status (primary care)	No difference	Insufficient (1 study)
Health status (urgent care)	No difference	Low
Quality of life (primary care)	No difference	Insufficient (1 study)
Mortality (primary care)	No difference	Low to Medium
Mortality (CRNA)	No difference	Insufficient (high risk of bias)
Hospitalization (primary care)	No difference	Low
Hospitalization (urgent care)	No difference	Insufficient (1 study)

