

**Information Letter/Consent**

**Title: Survey of Advance Practice Nurses knowledge and skills in assessment, diagnosis, treatment and referral of service members**

Principal Investigator, Francine Clark Jones, PhD RN

Texas State University, School of Nursing at San Marcos 512-716-2923

Dear Advance Practice Nurses,

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Francine Jones, PhD RN at Texas State University School of Nursing. The aim of this study is to describe Advance Practice Nurses (APNs) perceived knowledge and skills related to the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of service members of the Iraq, Afghanistan and other U. S. - engaged wars.

I have chosen to conduct nursing research because there is a lack of research about knowledge and skills APNs currently possess or need in order to provide comprehensive and competent care to US service members. Your participation is very important given emergence of three critical factors: The anticipated outcomes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) on types of providers, provider roles and diverse patients and patient care outcomes; 2. The increasing numbers and complexity of conditions and diseases of a burgeoning proportion of service members in which APNs may be called upon to provide treatment; and 3. The proposed implementation of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice -the terminal ‘practice” degree for nurses. Each of these factors act as forces which will impact APNs roles, function and educational and practice needs. You have been asked to participate because you are representative of the target population for which data is needed to prepare competent APNs/DNPs and inform educational program administration and educators of curricula and practice gaps and/or needs.

This study uses an anonymous internet-based survey to obtain information about you and your current role and function and as your opinions, knowledge and skills related to provision of treatment of

U. S. service members. The survey consists of 82 short statements or questions and will take 25 minutes to complete. While completion of all survey items will be invaluable, you may choose not to answer items or discontinue the survey at any time. After reading this consent letter, and if you agree to respond to survey questions, you will click on the site link at the bottom of the page and be directed to the survey. After completion, hit the “Submit” button. For privacy, you access the survey from your home computer if you choose to do so, but you must complete the survey in one sitting as your answers will not be saved if you stop and try to return on the following day.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time. Your employment and job status will in no way be affected by choosing or not choosing to participate in this study. While all information obtained during this study will be kept confidential, you may choose to not answer any question(s) for any reason. Your information will be kept in digital format and password protected. The data from the APNs knowledge and skills survey will only be accessible to the principal investigator and will also be password protected. All results will be reported as group data and by subject code. No individual participants will be identified. The research team will analyze the data and provide a summarized report. All data will be reported as group data. No individuals will be able to be identified. The results of the survey will be released four months from the initiation of the study. For the study results, you may access the site at the internet link listed below.

There are no known risks associated with this study. There are no benefits to participating in the study, other than the satisfaction in providing input in future educational initiatives that may affect APNs knowledge, practice and professional development. Your participation will help identify, prioritize, address, and evaluate important needs of NPs in a variety of settings.

The survey will be conducted on the INTERNET. The INTERNET survey site will be available to you for 12 week period starting midnight Central Daylight Time Monday morning, **March. 10, 2010**. The deadline for participation is midnight Central Daylight Time Sunday night, **June 10, 2011**.

Please complete all questions>

You must complete the survey in one sitting. You will not be able to save it and return to it. Your access to the survey site will time-out after 90 minutes and you will not be able to submit your responses.

For computer issues, contact the Internet site manager listed at the bottom of this page.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or concerns or complaints about the research, you may contact:

# Dr. Jon Lasser Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB) on Human Subjects, [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu); [ospirb@txstate.edu](mailto:ospirb@txstate.edu)   512-245-2314; 512-245-3413

# **OR**

# Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist, 512-245-2102

For additional information, contact IRB Administration using the IRB Inquiry Form: <http://www.osp.txstate.edu/irb/irb_inquiry.html> . You may also call this number in the event the research staff cannot be reached or you wish to talk to someone else.

Thank you

Francine Jones PhD RN, Principal Investigator

Francine Jones: 512-716-2923

[fj12@txstate.edu](mailto:fj12@txstate.edu)

**Please check one of the boxes below as to whether you agree or do do not desire to complete the survey. If you agree, after checking the box you will be advanced to survey.**

1. **I will complete the survey [ ]**
2. **I will not complete the survey [ ]**

***Problems ?? click here (Site Manager email):***

Thank you for your time