



Paramedic Association of Manitoba

Understanding

PROFESSIONAL SELF-REGULATION





Presentation Outline

- Purpose of regulation
- What is Professional Self-regulation
- Why Self-regulation
- Responsibilities of regulatory body
- Impact on Paramedics and Profession
- Wrap-up





Purpose of regulation

***Services, occupations and
professions are regulated for
one reason...***

to protect the public





Purpose of regulation

PUBLIC PROTECTION

- Governments regulate services and activities to “ensure level playing field” between experts and public
- Government develops rules for transactions between service provider and public
- Common approach to regulating professions is ***self-regulation***





What is Professional Self-regulation

***Profession “controls” the
activities of it’s members...***

***in the interest of
public protection***





What is Professional Self-regulation

- “Partnership” with Government to formally regulate the profession
- **Legislation** provides the framework for a profession to regulate member activities
 - Legal authority to “govern” members transferred from government to profession
 - Profession expected to develop, implement and enforce rules **to protect public**
 - ensure competent and ethical practitioners
 - Members accountable for their practice/conduct
- “Gold standard” of professional status
 - Considerable responsibility





Why Self-regulation

***Members of a specialized profession
possess the knowledge, skills and
judgment to best regulate the
profession...to ensure
public protection
and
accountability***





Why Self-regulation

- As knowledge and specialization within a profession grow, it becomes more difficult for Government to determine and monitor standards
 - the professional members become the experts
- Based on premise that members of profession possess skills, knowledge and judgment to best regulate
- Self-regulation is widely regarded as characteristic of a profession
- Self-regulation benefits the public, the profession, practitioners and government





Why Self-regulation

Self-regulation benefits the public, the profession, practitioners and government.

- Benefits Public:
 - Regulatory model places **public interest first**
 - Accountability for competence and professionalism through regulator
 - Public representation appointed to governing board or council
 - through legislation and government oversight





Why Self-regulation

Self-regulation benefits the public, the profession, practitioners and government.

- **Benefits Profession:**
 - Recognition of professional status
 - credibility/respect/legitimacy within public, political and health sectors
 - Greater autonomy and control
 - determine entry requirements
 - set practice standards
 - Increased flexibility in establishing regulations
 - government processes often time-consuming
 - Increased access to Government





Why Self-regulation

Self-regulation benefits the public, the profession, practitioners and government.

- **Benefits Practitioners:**
 - Peers set standards
 - Peer evaluation
 - Increases professional opportunities for practitioners
 - Prestige of professional status
 - potential financial rewards over time





Why Self-regulation

Self-regulation benefits the public, the profession, practitioners and government.

- **Benefits Government:**
 - Minimizes government role
 - Government seen to be acting in interest of public protection
 - Increases flexibility in establishing regulations
 - government processes often time-consuming
 - Insulates government somewhat from actions of professions
 - Transfers regulatory cost to profession





Responsibilities of regulatory body

Protect the public...

by ensuring that practitioners
are qualified, competent and
ethical





Responsibilities of regulatory body

- Standards for entry to practice
 - education
 - licensing
- Continuing practice standards
 - license renewal
- Conduct and discipline of members
 - professional ethics and conduct
 - protection of the public
- On-going competence of practitioner members
 - continuing competency program
- Accountable to public and Government





Professional Self-regulation: *Impact on Paramedics*

- Members accountable for their practice
 - Adherence to codes/standards
 - Maintain competence and conduct
- Responsibility to the profession
 - Participation in professional governance, committees, professional development, promotion...
- Registration associated with regulatory College
 - Saskatchewan 2009 - \$175.00
 - New Brunswick 2009 - \$290.00
 - Alberta 2009 - \$325.00





Professional Self-regulation: *Impact on Profession*

- Enhanced credibility as a profession
- Responsible to develop and enable standards for education and practice
- Oversee complaints resolution
- Ensure continuing competence of practitioners
- Offers title protection
- Require liability protection
- Partnerships with government, employers, educators, other health professions and public:
 - human resource planning, policy and evaluation
 - innovations in regulation and practice
 - expanded roles for paramedic profession





Professional Self-regulation... Wrap-up

- *Responsibility to regulate members in interest of public protection*
- *Self-regulation is a **privilege**...not a “right”*
- *“Gold standard” of professional status*
- *Acknowledges the expertise and professionalism of paramedics*
- *Provides opportunity for professional growth and development*





Professional Self-regulation... Wrap-up

Additional resource links:

- *“Understanding Professional Self-Regulation”*
www.paramedicsofmanitoba.ca/self-regulation.asp
- *Professional Self-Regulation – SRNA*
www.paramedicsofmanitoba.ca/self-regulation.asp
- *The Regulated Health Professions Act*
www.gov.mb.ca/health/hprri/
- *Saskatchewan College of Paramedics*
www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca





Questions???

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