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 its 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 posses 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
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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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