

First World Health Professions Conference on Regulation (WHPCR)

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Trade in services and its implication on regulation

Equivalence and Global Standards

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Enormous subject
Only aim is to offer a perspective

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- Approach
 - different and the same
 - global drivers
 - equivalence
 - opportunity

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- We are different
 - models of practice
 - education
 - health system
 - regulatory scheme (or not)
 - language
 - culture

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- We are the same
 - health mandate
 - interest in public safety, quality care
 - resource shortages
 - increasing push to figure out the global community
 - regulators (where exist) are part of the economy

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New rules in the global market place

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- Drivers
 - trade in services movement
 - standards movement
 - accreditation movement
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Trade in services

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- Conversation
 - global and regional
 - standards and conformance
 - mutual recognition
- 10

Health viewed as a global human right

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It is health care's turn

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Standards

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“A standard is a document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.”

* Definition based on ISO/IEC 17000:2004

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Push or pull?

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What do standards do?

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- make the development and supply of services more efficient and safer
- facilitate trade between countries and make it fairer
- provide governments with a technical base for health and safety legislation and conformity assessment
- share advances and good practice
- disseminate innovation
- safeguard consumers
- make life simpler by providing solutions to common problems

* modified from ISO 2008

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conformity assessment

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shared principles*

* Modified list based on Standards Council of Canada 2004

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Conformity Assessment Principles

- contributes to safeguarding public health, the environment and public safety
- based on international standards, agreements and protocols without undue national bias
- avoids creating unnecessary obstacles to trade

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Conformity Assessment Principles (cont'd)

- accessible, equitable and fair in its treatment of all users
- in accordance with an accepted code of ethics
- results are made publicly available

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• Prolific growth in international standards

- 1960's – a few dozen
- 1987 – 7,000
- 1997 – 12,000
- 2007 - 17,000
(1100 new ISO standards per year)

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Increasing link between standards and regulation

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Accreditation

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“The systematic review of an academic education program against set and agreed to criteria to confer (or not) a status of achievement by a recognized legitimate review body”

* Washington Accord

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- Benefits
 - improved program quality
 - basis for mutual recognition agreement

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Should accreditation be regional or global?

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Where is the balance in the professions?

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Is a global standard achievable?

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Equivalence

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More commonly referred to as substantial equivalency

“Substantial equivalency means that there is reasonable confidence that the qualifications are highly similar. Substantial equivalency also implies reasonable confidence that individuals possess the competencies or comparator being evaluated. Usually 80% of competencies or better.”

* Adapted from WCPT report (2003)

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Competence and competence assessment

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Capture 40 – 60% of baseline competence at best

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- Other factors
 - language
 - technology
 - ethics
 - practice environment
 - patient centered models
 - funding models
 - population health
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So what of the global professional?

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Professions must, however, be part of the global dialogue

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How do professions move from why to how?

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Think global and act global in local standard setting

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Develop international principles on key elements for profession based movement

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Develop partnerships across the health sector

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Link with leaders discussing standards and conformity

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Share best practices

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