

World Health Professions Regulation Conference 2014

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Session 1: Challenges facing health professional regulation

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Challenges in Health Professional Regulation in Africa



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World Medical Association



- Global federation of 107 national member associations representing over 9 million medical doctors all over the world
- Member of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)
- Works to ensure the highest possible standards of medical education, medical ethics and healthcare for all the people of the world.



Introduction



- Africa - 11% of world's population
- 49% of the world's maternal deaths
- 50% of world's children dying before 5 years of age
- 67% of the world's HIV/AIDS patients.

Why poor progress?



- Political instability
- Weak governance
- Natural disasters
- Underdeveloped structures
- Underfunding, wastage of 20-40% existing and donor
- Weak Health systems
- Human Resource for Health crisis

Post MDG agenda



- Universal Health Coverage
- Strengthening of health systems
- Renewed commitment to primary health care
- Country led

Health professional regulation challenges



Government perception – self regulation

Public interest vs self interest

Protectionism

Challenge: the patient



- Health literacy - patient rights, health problems
- Mechanisms of protection – facility based, patients organizations, legal, regulatory bodies
- Lack of confidence in the regulatory system – lack of transparency by regulators, protectionism

Challenges: the practitioner



- Misperception that regulation is to protect them and do not relate regulation to quality patient care
- Inadequate knowledge
- Work load, burn out

More challenges: the practitioner



- Evolving roles
- Extended scope of practice for nurses and other front line workers (TASK SHIFTING)

Challenges: the practitioner



- Knowledge – Human rights, Ethics (research, HIV/AIDS, mental health, HP-patient communication, etc)
- Weak professional associations –protection, CPD
- Cultural and traditional gender issues – gender perceptions and relations

Challenges : the practitioner



- Armed conflict and other emergencies – professional autonomy
- Violence in the health sector
- Working in the armed forces – prisons, police, army

Challenges: the regulator



Potential conflict of interest

- Should ministries of health finance or be represented on regulatory bodies?
- Should Ministries of health appoint the chairs of regulatory bodies?
- Should Ministries of Health house regulatory bodies?

Challenges: The Regulators



- Competence
- Resources
- Support by stakeholders
- Systems

Recommendations



1. Reforms – laws, policy
 - Multi stake holder involvement
2. Quality of training
 - inter-professional education
 - local, regional collaboration

Recommendations



3. Resources (human, funding,etc)
4. Develop systems
5. Advocacy
6. Research

Recommendations



- 3. Regulate all groups of health providers**
 - community health workers**
 - traditional and complementary medicine**
 - Support workers**

Recommendations



5. Motivation of health workers

6. Strengthen health professional associations (set core values, advocacy, CPD)

Example: WMA African Medical Initiative – to capacity build African national medical associations

Recommendations



9. Research, documentation and dissemination

10. Strengthen collaboration

Inter-professional – eg. Proposed East African
national health professional regulatory
authorities

Recommendations



Strengthen collaboration and partnerships

Inter-professional at national level

**e.g the proposed East African national regulatory
health authorities**

Recommendations



South to south collaboration eg. African Health Professional Regulatory Collaborative for Nurses and Midwives (ARC)

Recommendations



The African Medical Councils Association (AMCOA)
Nursing Education Partnership Initiative
Medical Education Partnership Initiative
East, Central and Southern College of Nursing
(ECSACON)

We need champions



