

Regulation as a Tool for Professional Development

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Abstract

Regulatory activity is at the heart of governmental responsibility, the goal of which is protection of the public interest. Regulatory activity involves the making or enforcement of laws, by-laws, orders, standards, or other controls, to regulate the actions of individuals, institutions, and organizations. The Ministry of Health (MoH) as a regulator is responsible for the health of the population of Israel and as such, the MoH is accountable for the quality and safety of health care services and the institutions providing these services. Literature regarding the influence of regulation on professional identity shows that regulation has both a direct and an indirect influence on professional identity. Moreover, those who choose a health profession have a fundamental commitment to care prior to making this choice. Thus, regulation in health care should both reflect and enhance commitment to these values, translating them into quality of care.

The National Department of Physiotherapy in the MoH is responsible for the quality of physiotherapy services in Israel. In accordance with the law, the Department is responsible for the creation of policy, directives, and standards, as well as enforcement and auditing of the same. In addition, the Physiotherapy Department is proactive in promoting the reputation and standing of the profession in the medical community, as well as in the community at large. This article highlights through examples, the power of regulation for promoting the profession and creating change.

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