

Emergent trends in regulation

Make policies informed by regulatory research

David Benton, chief executive officer, National Council of State Boards of Nursing

Twenty-five regulatory trends emerged from a bibliometric analysis of literature and research. They provided concrete insights into the future of regulation. From that process, key priorities can be set to design a governance model that fits.

Governance

Nature of regulator: Performance-managed bodies with independent oversight

Character of the board: Governance focused with increased public accountability

Regulatory board members: Increasingly competence-assessed and appointed through impartial process

Accountability: Mixed models of accountability

Purposes and processes

Decision making: Principle-based decision making with rationales for judgments

Process of regulation: Evidence-based processes

Protecting the public: Complex and dynamic system of coordinated players

Organizational drive: Leaders and scholars focused on contemporary solutions

Licensees and registrants

Those regulated: Team-based regulation

The register: Transjurisdictional register of the competent and privileged

Types of practitioners: Shared competence with a continuum and team-based models of practice

Workforce

Nature of the workforce: Multigenerational careers

Workforce and educational planning: Systems and regional economy planning

Education

Setting standards: Higher level competencies relating to judgment and decision making

Curriculum content: Global calibration and harmonization of content

Accreditation of institutions and programs: Streamlined capture for multiple use

Learning: Continuing and maintaining competence

Pedagogy: Adult learning and blended simulation, gaming, and practice

Fitness for practice

Fit person: Ongoing process with criminal background checks and rapback

Dealing with complaints: Clear separation of investigation, judgment, and outcome

Conduct sanctions: Risk-based response and wider range of sanctions

Entry to practice: Application of knowledge with judgment and decision making

Technology and information

Data production and storage: Cloud-based document storage, transjurisdictional interoperability, and dynamic search capability

Data access: Real-time updates and multiplatform access

Relicensure: Smart phone completion platforms with digital payment



Reference

Benton, D. (2017) [Bibliometric Review: Identifying Evolving and Emergent Regulatory Trends. In Regulation 2030 First Steps on a Journey. Journal of Nursing Regulation. 8:2 Supplement, S5-S14.](#)