



THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSION ORGANIZATIONS IN ACHIEVING OPTIMIZED SCOPES OF PRACTICES

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The presentation directly relates to the conference theme as it evaluates the interaction of health professional organizations in directing the optimization of health human resources. This presentation will focus on their role in the health policy process that seeks to support the enhancement of scopes of practices, which is one of the methods being used to optimize the Canadian health workforce.

CHWC 2016

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

As collaborative practice becomes the norm at the clinical level, it is important to understand how health profession organizations are adapting their practices to support collaborative engagement at the regulatory level. The study aims to evaluate the role of health profession organizations in the development of optimized scopes of practices in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

CONCLUSIONS

Most critics argue that medical dominance has declined but this study suggests that provincial medical associations continue to exert significant influence over policy decisions, the allocation of resources, and the work place environment for all health professions. There continues to be challenges for non-physician professions to practice within their optimized scopes of practices due to financial constraints.

FINDINGS/IMPACT/OUTCOMES

Preliminary results demonstrate a collaborative effort between regulatory colleges and professional associations to develop ideas and recommendations. These health profession organizations rely on feedback from each other to support a policy issue or identify potential disagreement that may emerge in formal consultative processes with their respective ministry of health. Most participants felt their organizations were able to influence policy decisions by providing research to inform evidence-based policies. However, non-physician professional organizations felt that provincial medical associations continue to have privileged access and control over decisions affecting funding and budgets. In sum, while participants felt current health care challenges have allowed the professional development of their respective professions, they continue to view medical dominance as barrier to the implementation of optimized scopes of practices