

**Title: Contemporary challenges facing regulators from across the globe**

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**Abstract:**

Contemporary challenges facing regulators from across the globe

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The pharmacy profession is one of the more regulated professions. The intent is to optimise health outcomes and to protect the population by ensuring that those practicing the profession are competent to do so within their defined scope of practice. Further, regulations may have to define the standards of practice although these are often developed by professional societies and adopted by regulators as the benchmark of standards for professional conduct.

Competence is a measure of both proven skills and proven knowledge and thus regulators must provide mechanisms for the definition, development and assessment of competencies in a given individual practitioner. This will involve the requirement to accredit educational institutions, training sites and continuing professional development programs and to provide competency assessment tools. The recognition of pharmacists with qualifications from outside the jurisdiction of the regulator require mechanisms to ensure these persons are competent to practice in the country in which they are seeking registration as a pharmacist.

With the rapidly changing environment of health care it will be necessary to consider competencies which relate to advanced practice and whether restriction of certain professional activities to "specialists" will be needed to ensure the public is protected.

The increasing role of the pharmacist in primary care will create provide the profession with new opportunities. However the need to ensure that the pharmacists have the skills and knowledge to perform at the required level to protect patients and to make a positive contribution to their health will be an increasing challenge to regulators. This presentation will discuss these challenges and present the concept of greater international collaboration between regulators.