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***Past Event: 2023 NCSBN Annual Meeting - Regulatory Network Session: Global Regulatory Atlas Video Transcript***

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**Event**

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**Presenters**

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- [Tim] Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for attending this presentation on a remarkable resource in the field of nursing regulation, the newly refreshed Global Regulatory Atlas. In 2018, NCSBN and, in particular, the nursing regulation and web development teams endeavored to create a database encapsulating the multi-faceted profiles of global nursing regulation and governance in one easily accessible place.

What started as an idea to aid in the standardization of nursing bodies and provide guidance to regulators crafting standards has yielded a searchable online database tool, free to all, that provides a cohesive, synthesized profile of nursing regulation, education, accreditation, and nursing data metrics for nearly every country around the world.

The Global Regulatory Atlas is the first comprehensive resource on the regulation of nurses in countries around the world, a data set that researchers can access anytime, anywhere, a means for regulators and educators to compare the nursing regulations of their home jurisdiction with that of their neighbors, and a tool to empower nurses considering migration to a different jurisdiction by providing them the information necessary to have a path to practice.

Now, before I dive into the six key components that actually comprise the Atlas and give a brief walkthrough of the newly refreshed site, I'd like to first talk a little bit about data procurement. With this refresh, one of our primary objectives was to obtain survey data directly from each jurisdiction.

We really did not want to rely on archival or encyclopedic secondary sources. We wanted each jurisdiction to contribute in a way that would enable them to feel that they were wholly and accurately represented within the Atlas, and they would know that the data they provided was being utilized for everyone around the world to see.

To this end, we employed various methods to get our data surveys into the hands of those most capable of actually answering the questionnaires, as Maryann alluded to, a task that's a lot easier said than done.

But in order to promulgate that next step, we leveraged, first, our WHO context, particularly, our research partners, be it professors, physicians, or nurses, and regulators within that jurisdiction.

Our research team was kind enough to collect contact information for participants at the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal, in July. We actually contacted, well, Chicago consulates and consulates within New York, requesting that they try and put us in contact with someone capable of providing us the information we needed.

And lastly, we leveraged NCSBN's extensive contact network within the regulatory agencies around the world. Next, I'd like to transition into discussing the actual key components that comprised the Atlas itself. First and foremost, we have contact information. In this regard, I mean the information for the regulatory body of nursing in each jurisdiction, their name, address, email, and URL, hopefully, if that is in existence, as we have encountered multiple jurisdictions that don't have websites.

To that end, it became readily evident when we started our data collection in March that a robust contact network within the Atlas was going to be as important as the actual data metrics themselves in order to facilitate communication between regulators and helping the standardization of the nursing practice. Next, transition to governance, and in this capacity, we felt it necessary to have a one-stop shop related to links to legislation and standards of each jurisdiction, information relating to the nurse mobility facilitation via reciprocal agreements and nursing compacts, and information regarding the regulatory council of each jurisdiction.

We next transition to licensure and registration, and this is the component in which we find the different nursing specialties that each jurisdiction utilizes, from LPNs to advanced practice nurses, in addition to midwives and nursing assistants, with the corresponding data metrics for that number of each category.

We also see the initial licensure and registration requirements within this component, the scope of practice, as well as whether or not this jurisdiction requires a criminal background check and the methodology for actually obtaining said criminal background check. Moving along, we come to education, and in this context, we mean the accreditation and/or approval of nursing institutions within each jurisdiction and whether or not their regulatory body actually requires approval or accreditation.

And if that was the case, we really try to pay close attention to formulating lists for each jurisdiction that actually had every institution that was accredited or approved by that jurisdiction. Next, we come to discipline, and in this instance, we were concerned with the disciplinary data management.

Where does that jurisdiction keep its information regarding discipline of nurses? And does the public have availability to that information? We also wanted to know what was the specific disciplinary actions that each jurisdiction was capable of utilizing where it'd be necessary. Last, we wanted to hit on telehealth.

As we all know, telehealth is being utilized at a vastly increasing rate, and we felt it incumbent upon ourselves to place all telehealth regulation, be it in the process of being formulated or current legislation, within the Atlas itself. Next, I am going to provide a little bit of a walkthrough through the newly refreshed site itself and take you to the homepage and then a sample profile.

As we come to the homepage, you can see a sleek, streamlined new design that not only looks incredible but has a vastly improved functionality and user interface. The Atlas homepage is a complete redesign, and it has been optimized for search functionality for users coming into the Atlas.

As you can see, we have the six key components that I alluded to earlier, as well as two points of access for locating jurisdictional data. This bottom one that Jen is now clicking on is actually an improvement in and of itself, because in the previous iterations of the Atlas, every jurisdiction was simply in a list. Now, we have the availability to select from a subset, such as Brazil, and select a state and/or province within that jurisdiction, not simply compiling through the entire list of the Atlas itself.

If we scroll up, I'm going to now show you a jurisdictional profile example, and for these purposes, we're going to choose Portugal. It has nothing to do with the fact that I'm going to Lisbon in six months for a vacation. Thank you. As I previously stated, you see front and center the contact information as when we did a random sampling of jurisdictions, asking what was the best way in which we could improve the Atlas, our number one response was, "We wanted better contact information that's easily viewable in a very complete and really accessible form."

And in terms of functionality for the profile itself, the user has the availability to click on the tab at the top to go to each component, or simply scroll through the entirety of the jurisdiction profile, which is a large improvement over the previous iteration in which users were forced to navigate back and forth using the back and forth arrows in order to try and look at different facets of the Atlas itself.

If we scroll down, the next category, under Governance, one of the biggest improvements in this category is simply the consolidation of all of these links into this one place. Whereas, again, in the old version, this data was interspersed throughout the dataset. We've consolidated the Nursing Laws & Regulations, the Nurse Mobility Facilitation, and information throughout the council all in one component that will enable the user to not have to search around for anything they're looking for.

When we come down to the Licensure and Registration page, we see another vast improvement. And that is the dropdown menu for the nursing specialty. Again, in our previous iteration, users were forced to select a nursing specialty and navigate back and forth using arrows.

And now, we have a very easy system in place in which the user simply clicks on the nursing specialty they'd like to view and is able to keep scrolling throughout the website, never navigating away from the page they're using itself. One last feature that I thought...oh, excuse me. Another feature under the Education component that's worthy of noting is that, in that same sampling in which we asked how we can improve the Atlas, our second most requested detail was the approved nursing education programs, which you can see that we've implemented here.

Lastly, I'd like to just hit on, at the bottom, the last updated feature, and this might seem trivial, but this is actually kind of a special date feature in this regard. Instead of being the date in which the website itself was last updated, each individual profile denotes when the information was last updated, ensuring that the user will have the ability to know that their information is the most current available.

In conclusion, nursing regulation plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the public's health and ensuring professional integrity. As regulatory requirements evolve and change over time, it becomes increasingly essential to stay abreast of these changes through reliable resources, like the Global Regulatory Atlas. By remaining informed and engaged throughout the ever-evolving regulatory landscape, we can continue to uphold the standards of excellence in nursing practice.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share the new Atlas with you.

- [Brendan] So, Tim, I just was hoping maybe you could also add to your prepared talking points the aspect about exporting some of the data. The researcher in me really just thought that that was the coolest feature, and I just wanted to make sure that the audience knows that.

- Thank you, Brendan. It is a really cool feature. The reason we didn't include it in this iteration is just because we're working out a bug that doesn't allow it to be displayed at this time. That was in the original version. It just didn't make it. But no, within a month, we're hoping to see the Export feature back into the Atlas, in which the datasets themselves can be exported via Excel and/or PDF in their entirety.

You have to do it one at a time, but you do have the capability of exporting the data at any time.

- [Mark] Mark Majek, Texas. I want to commend you guys on this because this has become an integral part of our licensing process for international nurses. And an example I can give you is we had discernment about who verifies licenses from Cameroon. Very difficult, and we're getting beatdowns from this applicant saying, "This is correct. This is correct."

We're saying no. We know by the Global Atlas what we can look at, and so this update is really helpful that we look at every day to verify applications and the correct group verifying the information. So I want to thank you for that and updating it because we do use it almost daily. So thank you for doing that.

- You're very welcome. And thank you for pointing that out.

- The other piece to that is David's talking about 2050. So I keep thinking, I'm hoping to be alive in 2050. That's my first goal as I'm thinking about that. So I've got a reason to live up to that point. Strategically, where is council heading with this? When I say that I know that you're new, this might be looking out in the future, but you know, we all do credential evaluations, and we all do all of this stuff.

And council has the resources. We look at Nursys. Then we're going to have Nursys Canada. And so I'm asking the question, do you have anything strategically you're looking at where the Global Atlas might head in documentation and maybe downloading information to something into the council for international licensing?

- We haven't actually discussed that framework as of yet, but that's actually a really good idea. And I think it's something that's absolutely worth discussing at NCSBN and something I will bring up. So I appreciate the suggestion in that regard. Thank you.

- [Jenifer] I would be remiss, we did not place the website link on our presentation. It is [regulatoryatlas.com](http://regulatoryatlas.com), easy access there, or you can find it on [ncsbn.org](http://ncsbn.org). It's at the bottom in our nice logo.

- Thank you.

- Thank you, everyone.