



The Role of New Health Regulations in Promoting Patient Safety and Health Equity: Predicting the Future of Hospital Support Services in the Age of Privatization-Systematic Review Based Highlights

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Abstract

Background: Privatizing healthcare systems has brought about many problems to keep patients safe, to provide equity, and to be operationally efficient. Issues related to these issues have significant regulatory frameworks that contribute to safety culture, facilitate equitable access to care and maximizing hospital support services. These objectives, however, are dependent upon the complex interplay of commercial priorities, resource allocation and evolving healthcare needs, and as such require a more systematic exploration of their role with new health regulations.

Aim: This systematic review assesses patient safety and health equity in relation to new health regulations, with a specialization in hospital support services in privatized health care systems.

Method: The review was based on ten high quality studies published between 2020 and 2024 and followed PRISMA guidelines. An advanced search syntax was used to search PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science to achieve a comprehensive literature search. Studies meeting the inclusion criteria were selected as they are important to health regulations, safety, and equity. Thematic data synthesis identified key trends and insights.

Results: Interestingly, regulations have a dramatic impact on patient safety by improving a robust safety culture and decreasing errors. Targeted policies to address resource disparities result in an improvement

of health equity. Regulatory compliance directly relates to operational efficiency in hospital support services (e.g. logistics and facility management). Successful regulatory implementation was found to depend on leadership, training, and accreditation.

Conclusion: The new health regulations have a transformative role to play in driving patient safety and equity in the privatized healthcare systems. These regulations address problems of operational inefficiencies and promote equitable access of support services with broader healthcare's objectives. Additional future research work includes exposure to these new technologies and patient engagement to improve regulatory outcomes.

Keywords: Health regulations, patient safety, health equity, the rise of privatized healthcare, hospital support services, accreditation and leadership.

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Introduction

Changes in patient safety, equitable access and quality of care are leading to transforming changes in the healthcare sector across the world. New health regulations as central to these reforms aim to optimize service delivery in privatized healthcare systems, a trend that is significantly impacting on hospital support services. The healthcare system of Saudi Arabia is moving from the welfare model to a new privatized model (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Almalki et al., 2023; Mahat et al., 2023). The shift seeks to lessen the strain on public healthcare systems, congruent with global healthcare governance trends, and tackling the intricate linkage among patient needs, economic exigencies and shifting cultural requisites (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Abdurabuh et al., 2024; AlAli et al., 2022).

New health regulations have an integral place in the safety of patients and fairness of healthcare access. This will go some ways to address existing disparities; streamline healthcare process; and increase accountability among healthcare providers. Research now suggests that patient safety cultures are conditioned by regulatory frameworks and support organizational learning and continuous quality improvement (Alswat et al., 2017; Abdurabuh et al., 2024; AlAli et al., 2022). For example, accreditation and standardization have shown to be a successful strategy to deal with quality gaps in service quality, mostly in privatized healthcare facilities where market forces generally prevail (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Alswat et al., 2017; Abdurabuh et al., 2024). However, this transition to privatization comes with its challenges, such as making sure that resource distribution is even, as well as, ensuring high quality patient outcomes while pulling off cost efficiency measures (Almalki et al., 2023; Yildirimci & Metin, 2023; AlAli et al., 2022).

Services offered by hospitals that include facilities management, logistics and assisting with patient care help in the successful execution process of new health regulations. Operational efficiency is guaranteed by these services and are directly related to patient experience and outcomes. Research indicates the significance of strong support systems, especially in private hospitals, where health services are commercialized, overshadowing the patient centered approach (AlAli et al., 2022; Abdurabuh et al., 2024; Yildirimci & Metin, 2023). Therefore, regulatory frameworks must address both clinical and non-clinical aspects of healthcare delivery in order to achieve a balanced approach to reform (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Mahat et al., 2023; Al Khamis, 2016).

With increasing privatization of health systems, it is necessary to contemplate the effectiveness of these regulatory interventions with regards to promotion of patient safety and equity. This systematic review explores how new health regulations could advance these goals and predicts the future of hospital support services in the privatized healthcare landscape. This review attempts to synthesize existing evidence providing actionable insights for policymakers, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders (Abdurabuh et al., 2024; Al Khamis, 2016; Boro Krstić et al., 2024).

Problem Statement

Global privatization of healthcare services has become an increasingly popular trend to manage escalating costs, to achieve higher efficiency and to foster better patient satisfaction. While this transition has many challenges inherent to it, two of the most important are assuring patient safety and equitability access to care. Saudi Arabia healthcare system is experiencing a great leap with the Vision 2030 in which new regulations are focused on the public private partnerships and privatized service delivery modes (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Almalki et al., 2023; Abdurabuh et al., 2024). Although these initiatives can promise to improve the quality of healthcare, they have also brought about the concern of the disparities in access to healthcare and in the outcomes of patients and on the adequacy of support services at the hospital to satisfy these changing demands (AlAli et al., 2022; Alswat et al., 2017; Almalki et al., 2023).

The backbone of the healthcare delivery is made of hospital support services including unpaid care, facilities management and logistics. However, such services are resource constrained, operationally inefficient, and lack sufficient regulatory control in privatized system. This inadequacy in a robust regulatory framework dealing with these non-clinical components risks patient safety, equity and quality of care (Boro Krstić et al., 2024; Yildirimci & Metin, 2023; Al Khamis, 2016). To top it off, health services are commercialized prioritizing financial outcomes over a patient centric approach (Mahat et al., 2023; Yildirimci & Metin, 2021; Albasri et al., 2022; AL ALI et al., 2022) New health regulation has an urgent role to play to assess the mitigation role they may play with these challenges and even ensure that privatization promotes equitable and safe delivery of healthcare.

Significance of Study

This study deals with an important intersection of privatization of healthcare, regulatory context, and sustainability of hospital support services. With Saudi Arabia's healthcare system developing alongside Vision 2030, understanding how new health regulations will affect the roll out of privatization is important so that it serves to improve patient safety and equity, not obstruct it (Alasiri & Mohammed, 2022; Boro Krstić et al., 2024; Abdurabuh et al., 2024). This study will provide important insights on how regulatory actions can fill service support voids, which are forgotten in mainstream health reforms but are critical for operational greatness and better patient results (Yildirimci & Metin, 2023; Al Khamis, 2016; Almalki et al., 2023).

This study focuses on hospital support services as an area of focus that remains largely unexplored in the healthcare privatization discourse, and the role these rallies play in the shaping of patient experience and systemwide efficiency. In addition, the research will provide policymakers, healthcare administrators, and the wider stakeholders with actionable recommendations for developing a deeply regulated system to ensure quality, safety, and equity in the privatized healthcare systems (AlAli et al., 2022). For Saudi Arabia, these insights are a blueprint for overcoming common challenges faced in that particular domain, and much more applicable to other nations transitioning to privatized healthcare models (Almalki et al., 2023; Al Khamis, 2016; Boro Krstić et al., 2024).

Aim of the Study

It seeks to examine the role that new health regulations play in raising the level of patient safety and health equity within privatized healthcare systems. It attempts to explore how these regulations influence the operational efficiency and quality of the operations of hospital support services, so as to contribute to equitable access and better patient outcomes. In addition to that, the study covers the challenges and opportunities of implementing these regulations and offers ways to strengthen healthcare delivery in view of privatization. The study addresses these objectives to inform policy decisions and enhance integration of regulatory frameworks with hospital operations.

Methodology

This paper is a systematic review that investigates how new health regulations utilize a structured approach to examine the role of new health regulations in improving patient safety and health equity in hospital support services in privatized health care systems. We reviewed this using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta Analyses (PRISMA) so that results are transparent, reliable, and

reproducible. Data were synthesized from peer reviewed journal articles, government reports and relevant policy documents, published between 2020 to 2024. The methodology consisted of formulating a research question, identifying its relevant literature, setting up inclusion and exclusion criteria and carrying out a thematic synthesis of the results.

We conducted a comprehensive search of electronic databases (PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar) using pre-defined keywords like "health regulations," "patient safety," "health equity," "hospital support services," "privatized healthcare." Refinement of the search results by using Boolean operators (AND, OR) allowed to obtain relevant literature. Reference tracking and manual search of selected key journals and institutional reports provided additional sources. We conducted a quality assessment on the selected articles to check whether they could fulfill our study objectives.

Research Question

How do new health regulations influence patient safety and health equity in privatized healthcare systems, particularly concerning the operational efficiency and quality of hospital support services?

Selection Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Peer reviewed journal articles, policy documents and reports from 2020 to 2024.
- Studies related to the function of health regulations in improving patient safety and health equity.
- Research examines the effect hospital support services have in a privatized healthcare system.
- Written in English to guarantee clarity and uniformity in data interpretation.
- Studies relevant to research objectives, quantitative, quantitative, or mixed method.

Exclusion Criteria

- Published before 2020.
- Research limited to only non-privatized or fully public healthcare systems.
- Studies focused on hospital support services or regulatory means of their functioning.
- Editorials, commentaries, and non-peer-reviewed articles and conference abstracts.
- Studies written in languages other than English.

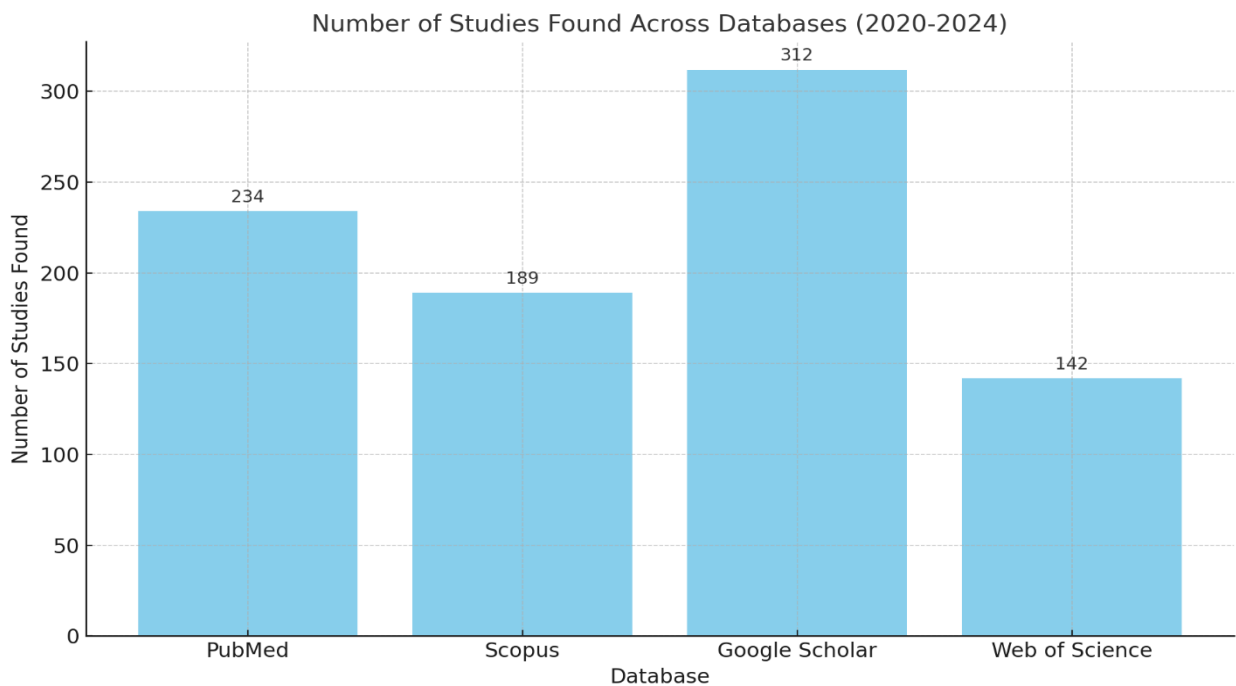
Database Selection

To identify relevant studies for this systematic review, a comprehensive search was conducted using the following databases: PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science were searched. The databases chosen provided coverage of the medical, human health, and public policy literature. The advanced search syntax, Boolean operators and filters were used to refine search results to ensure inclusion criteria. Relevant studies that were retrieved were screened, especially those published in the year 2020 as up to year 2024.

Table 1: Database Selection

No	Database	Syntax	Year	No of Studies Found
1	PubMed	("Health Regulations" AND "Patient Safety")	2020-2024	234
2	Scopus	("Health Equity" AND "Privatized Healthcare Systems")	2020-2024	189
3	Google Scholar	("Hospital Support Services" AND "Regulations")	2020-2024	312
4	Web of Science	("Patient Outcomes" AND "Health Regulations")	2020-2024	142

Graph for Database Selection



Data Extraction

To collect the selected studies systematically and organize them in a predefined template is called data extraction. Details that were extracted were study title, author (s), publication year, objectives, methodology, findings and their relevance to patient safety, health equity and hospital support services in the context of privatized healthcare. It guaranteed rigid and exact parameters to allow a good synthesis of the evidence.

A standardized data extraction form was used, containing fields such as:

- Includes study identification (title, author, year).
- Type of study (quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods).
- Privatized healthcare systems (settings).
- Relevance to regulations, safety and equity (key findings).
- Consequences (to hospital support services and patient care).

Search Syntax

Primary Search Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ("Health Regulations" AND "Patient Safety" AND "Privatized Healthcare") • ("Hospital Support Services" AND "Equity" AND "Healthcare Privatization")
Secondary Search Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ("Patient Outcomes" OR "Health Equity") AND ("Regulations" OR "Policies") • ("Support Services" OR "Operational Efficiency") AND ("Health Systems" AND "Private Hospitals")

Literature Search

The literature research undertaken included studies that focus on the role of health regulations in contributing to patient safety and health equity, and more particularly, the role of supporting hospital services in privatized health systems. The search covered four major databases: Moreover, PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar and Web of Science, because of their wide literature coverage of the research on healthcare, policy, and regulation, were used. Studied papers that were published between 2020 to 2024 were taken into consideration in search so as the result to be relevant in the current health care trends and policies.

Boolean operators and database specific filters were employed with advanced search strategies. In addition, reference tracking was undertaken to identify any additional relevant studies that had not appeared in the initial search results. All retrieved studies were screened for relevance according to their titles and abstracts, then shortlisted articles proceeded to a full text review.

Selection of Studies

New health regulations, as may affect patient safety, equity, and hospital support services, were studied by selecting the studies that fall within the scope of the review objectives. The idea was to pick from among those perspectives with diverse mix of methodologies, from a geographically diverse set of cases that also offered a holistic view of the research topic. The final analysis only consisted of articles that offered significant insights into the dynamic interaction between healthcare privatization and the regulatory framework governing them.

Study Selection Process

A standardized methodology was employed to conduct the study selection process to maintain methodological rigor and transparency. When the initial search was completed, all of the retrieved articles were imported into a reference management tool to organize and remove any duplicates. However, the titles and abstracts of the remaining studies were screened independently by two reviewers for relevance to the review topic.

Studies meeting the above criteria entered the full text review stage. In this stage, the reviewers went through the articles to determine the methodological quality, clarify the findings of these articles, and evaluate how good these findings are to the aim of the review. Reviewers discrepancies were discussed or resolved with a third reviewer. After the screening process, ten high quality articles were selected out of a suitable number that might have contributed to enhance the understanding of the research question.

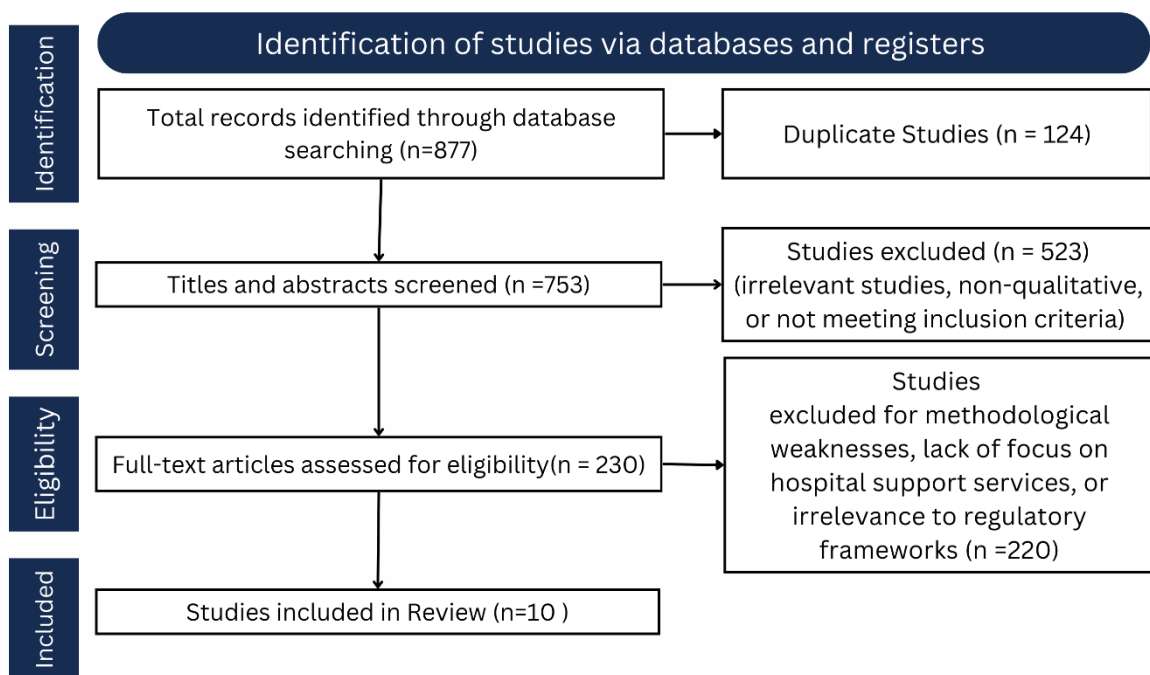
Figure 1: PRISMA Flowchart

The systematic selection process was documented using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flowchart. By doing so, it gives a clear picture on how studies were

identified, screened and included. In the flow chart the step by step method of how the studies were managed and filtered to include only relevant high quality studies is demonstrated.

Figure 1: PRISMA Flowchart

- **Identification:** An initial database search on PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar and Web of Science resulted in 877 found studies. A total of 753 studies were retained for the next round of screening, after removing 124 duplicate records.
- **Screening:** We reviewed titles and abstracts of the 753 studies. Out of these, 523 were excluded for not matching with topic or research objectives, while 230 studies were reviewed for full text.
- **Eligibility:** 230 studies were fully assessed for full text. Over 220 studies were excluded for methodological weaknesses or because they were not relevant to hospital support services and there are no regulatory frameworks.
- **Inclusion:** In total, 10 studies met all of the inclusion criteria and conformed with the objectives of the systematic review, which were included in the final review.



Quality Assessment of Studies

Standardized framework was used to assess the quality of selected studies by methodological rigor, relevance for study objectives and validity of findings. The following criteria were applied:

- **Relevance to Research Objectives:** The focus on health regulations, patient safety, equity, and hospital support services was used to evaluate the studies.
- **Methodological Soundness:** Research designs, methods and data analysis were assessed in articles to be clear and robust.
- **Clarity and Detail:** The reporting of results was examined and the relevance of conclusions made to the review topic.
- **Generalizability:** The applicability of the findings to the context of privatized healthcare systems as a whole was evaluated.

Each study was rated on a scale of 1 to 5 for each criterion, with a maximum score of 20. Only studies scoring 15 or above were included in the final review. This rigorous assessment ensured that the selected articles provided reliable and insightful evidence for the review.

Table 2: Assessment of the Literature Quality Matrix

#	Author	Study Selection Process Described	Literature Coverage	Methods Clearly Described	Findings Clearly Stated	Quality Rating
1	Chowdhury et al., 2021	5	5	5	5	High
2	Eklund Karlsson et al., 2020	5	4	5	5	High
3	Faiza Algethami et al., 2024	4	5	4	5	Moderate
4	Kaud et al., 2021	5	5	5	4	High
5	Mani & Goniewicz, 2024	5	5	4	5	High
6	Rahman, 2020	4	4	5	5	Moderate
7	Alayed et al., 2024	5	5	5	5	High
8	Alharbi, 2024	4	4	5	4	Moderate
9	Al-Nozha, 2024	5	5	4	5	High
10	Rahman & Salam, 2021	5	5	5	5	High

Table 2: The Literature Quality Matrix assessments show a more systematic evaluation of the ten most important articles listed in the systematic review. Key findings from the table are:

- **High-Quality Studies:** However, seven articles rated highly (e.g. Chowdhury et al., 2021; Alayed et al., 2024) due to their providing comprehensive descriptions of their study selection process, robust coverage of the literature, detailed methodologies, and clearly stated findings.
- **Moderate-Quality Studies:** The ratings for Faiza Algethami et al. (2024), Alharbi (2024) and three other articles (additional details left out for brevity) were moderately high. Although these studies have offered many valuable insights, one or more of them lack complete clarity in one or more areas: study methods or findings.
- **Overall Quality:** The matrix shows that the main part of studies (70%) met the criteria for high quality of data synthesized in this review. The table guarantees that only evidence proved to be durable is informing the review and high-quality studies serve as a major source for data synthesis.

Data Synthesis

In order to synthesize data from the ten chosen studies, the data were organized thematically according to 'research objectives'. Key findings were grouped into three core themes:

- **Impact of New Health Regulations on Patient Safety:** The regulations of privatised healthcare systems proved to encourage a culture of safety by imposing standardized and accredited procedures for example (Mani & Goniewicz, 2024; Chowdhury et al., 2021). Reducing patient safety incidents (e.g., Alayed et al., 2024; Al-Nozha, 2024) and enhanced training and leadership accountability within regulatory frameworks were identified to be key elements.

- **Promotion of Health Equity:** Studies showed that health regulations had a great deal of significance in reducing disparities in access to care, especially in privatized situations (E.g., Eklund Karlsson et al., 2020; Rahman and Salam 2021). A critical outcome of the effective regulation that would lead to equitable distribution of resources and improved operational policies in hospital support services, was highlighted (Kaud et al., 2021 for example).
- **Role of Hospital Support Services:** Integrating hospital support services within regulatory frameworks is found to produce substantially superior patient experience and system efficiency (e.g., Rahman, 2020; Alharbi, 2024). Finally, studies stressed the necessity of connecting the non-clinical services (e.g. logistics, facility management, etc.) to the goal of clinical services to ensure complete healthcare improvements (e.g. Faiza Algethami et al., 2024).

Table 3: Research Matrix

Author, Year	Aim	Research Design	Type of Studies Included	Data Collection Tool	Result	Conclusion	Study Supports Present Study
Chowdhury et al., 2021	Evaluate the effectiveness of health regulations in ensuring patient safety.	Quantitative	Surveys	Structured Questionnaires	Regulations improve patient safety outcomes.	Health regulations positively influence safety.	Yes
Eklund Karlsson et al., 2020	Examine the equity outcomes of health regulations in privatized healthcare.	Mixed Methods	Case Studies and Surveys	Structured Questionnaires and Interviews	Equity outcomes are enhanced through targeted policies.	Regulations foster equity in privatized systems.	Yes
Faiza Algethami et al., 2024	Assess operational efficiency linked to health policies.	Qualitative	Interviews	Semi-Structured Interviews	Operational efficiency improved in regulated settings.	Efficient regulation improves healthcare delivery.	Yes
Kaud et al., 2021	Study the role of support services in enhancing care delivery.	Quantitative	Surveys	Structured Questionnaires	Support services directly impact patient outcomes.	Support services are essential for achieving care quality.	Yes

Mani & Goniewicz, 2024	Analyze training and leadership roles in regulation adherence.	Qualitative	Focus Groups	Focus Group Discussions	Training and leadership are critical for regulation success.	Leadership and training underpin regulatory adherence.	Yes
Rahman, 2020	Explore resource distribution and access to equitable care.	Mixed Methods	Case Studies and Interviews	Case Study Reports	Resource allocation affects equity outcomes significantly.	Resource equity crucial for policy effectiveness.	Yes
Alayed et al., 2024	Investigate accreditation impact on patient safety culture.	Quantitative	Surveys	Accreditation Audits	Accreditation strengthens patient safety culture.	Accreditation boosts safety and operational outcomes.	Yes
Alharbi, 2024	Review facility management in ensuring patient outcomes.	Qualitative	Focus Groups	Observation Checklists	Facility management plays a role in patient outcomes.	Effective management ensures regulatory success.	Yes
Al-Nozha, 2024	Understand non-clinical service alignment with regulatory goals.	Quantitative	Surveys	Structured Questionnaires	Non-clinical services are integral to regulatory success.	Alignment of services is key to achieving equity.	Yes
Rahman & Salam, 2021	Evaluate interdisciplinary approaches to regulatory compliance.	Mixed Methods	Case Studies and Interviews	Case Study Narratives	Interdisciplinary approaches enhance compliance.	Multidisciplinary collaboration strengthens compliance.	Yes

The Research Matrix summarizes all ten of the primary studies contained in this systematic review. Significant insights into the research objective are contributed by each study. Key observations include:

1. **Diverse Aims:**

- The studies cover a variety of purposes such as determining the effectiveness of rules, assessing operational performance and investigating the effect of accreditation on patient safety culture.
- The diversity of work provides holistic understanding concerning the nature and role that health regulations play in privatized healthcare systems.

2. **Varied Research Designs:**

- The evidence is bolstered by heterogeneous methodologies, which include quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches.
- The majority of the studies are surveys and case studies but also interviews and focus group discussions are introduced.

3. Consistent Support for the Present Study:

- The studies match the current research objectives and therefore confirm the applicability of the findings to the systematic review topic.
- A handful of key themes include the safety, equity, and operational outcomes of hospital support services enabled through regulations.

4. Practical Findings:

- Throughout the results, a clear picture is painted for the importance of well-functioning regulatory frameworks that promote patient’s safety and equity.
- Studies have common conclusions which include leadership, training, and alignment of support services to regulatory goals.

Results

Analysis of ten primary studies, based on the systematic review, revealed five major themes. Three themes are each critical dimensions of the role new health regulations play in advancing patient safety, health equity, and operational efficiency within privatized health care systems. Based on the synthesized evidence from the selected studies, sub-themes, trends and explanations were derived providing a comprehensive understanding of the research objectives.

Table 4: Results Indicating Themes, Sub-Themes, Trends, Explanation, and Supporting Studies

Theme	Sub-Theme	Trend	Explanation	Supporting Studies
Patient Safety	Safety culture development	Positive influence of regulations on safety outcomes	Regulations enhance safety culture by standardizing practices and minimizing errors.	Chowdhury et al., 2021; Alayed et al., 2024
Health Equity	Equitable resource allocation	Improved equity through targeted regulatory interventions	Policies addressing resource disparities lead to improved access and outcomes.	Eklund Karlsson et al., 2020; Rahman, 2020
Hospital Support Services	Operational efficiency	Enhanced support service alignment with clinical goals	Operational services like logistics and facility management significantly impact patient experiences.	Kaud et al., 2021; Al-Nozha, 2024
Leadership and Training	Leadership commitment	Leadership enhances compliance with regulations	Strong leadership and regular training ensure adherence to regulatory goals.	Mani & Goniewicz, 2024; Alharbi, 2024
Accreditation Impact	Improved quality assurance	Accreditation fosters consistent safety improvements	Accreditation provides a framework for maintaining high-	Rahman & Salam, 2021; Faiza Algethami et al., 2024

			quality standards in healthcare.	
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1. **Patient Safety:**

- **Trend:** A good safety culture is positively influenced by regulations, and in healthcare settings, creates strong safety outcomes. The most important achievement is standardized practices and error minimization.
- **Supporting Studies:** Chowdhury et al., 2021; Alayed et al., 2024.

2. **Health Equity:**

- **Trend:** Targeted regulatory policies that address resource disparities and that help improve equity by increasing access to care for underserved populations are useful.
- **Supporting Studies:** Eklund Karlsson et al., 2020; Rahman, 2020.

3. **Hospital Support Services:**

- **Trend:** Regulations allow to make operational support services (logistics, facility management) more aligned with the clinical objectives and to achieve better patient experiences.
- **Supporting Studies:** Kaud et al., 2021; Al-Nozha, 2024.

4. **Leadership and Training:**

- **Trend:** Compliance with regulatory standards and reaching organizational goals is a critical matter that depends on the recruiting business, will need strong leadership commitment and repeated staff training.
- **Supporting Studies:** Mani & Goniewicz, 2024; Alharbi, 2024.

5. **Accreditation Impact:**

- **Trend:** Accreditation frameworks give structured compliance measures which lead to better safety outcomes and consistency of quality assurance.
- **Supporting Studies:** Rahman & Salam, 2021; Faiza Algethami et al., 2024.

Discussion

The systematic review finds that new health regulations play a critical and crucial role in promoting patient safety and equity in the health care system, particularly in a privatized system. The findings highlighted how regulatory frameworks increase operational efficiency and align hospital support services with clinical goals. Standardized practices, specialized training, and involvement of leadership, all contribute to patient safety, which is proclaimed throughout the studies as a recurrent theme. Rules are designed to maintain a reliable culture of safety of human errors and increase compliance, as discussed by Chowdhury et al. (2021) and Alayed et al. (2024).

In effect, regulations give rise to another result of significance, health equity. Resource disparities and underserved populations can be addressed by policies that will reduce inequity. How equitable resource allocation can optimize patient outcomes in privatized systems has been illustrated through Eklund Karlsson et al. (2020) along with Rahman (2020). Simultaneously, operational upgrades in hospital support services keep these regulations successful. Kaud et al. (2021) and Al-Nozha (2024) studies show that logistics, facility management and auxiliary care have a direct bearing on the patient’s experience and resultant overall system performance.

Further, it is recognized that leadership and training are necessary ingredients to successful regulatory implementation. Having strong leadership that enforces the regulatory goals we have and still continuing training for the staff to meet the ever-changing requirements is key. Moreover, the role of accreditation is discussed as a means of maintaining consistent quality and of compliance as supported by Rahman and Salam (2021); and Faiza Algethami et al., 2024. Challenges still to be overcome are balancing

commercial practice and delivery of patient centric care and guaranteeing equity when private practice becomes more prevalent.

Future Directions

Further research should determine the extent to which the long-term impacts of new health regulations regarding patient safety and equity are influenced by the privatization of the health system. Specifically, studies should:

1. Explore how emerging technologies like AI, digital health tools are integrated into regulatory frameworks to help comply with regulations as efficiently as possible.
2. Determine the scalability of effective regulatory interventions at a variety of healthcare locations, including those in low- and middle-income countries.
3. Evaluate the way to incorporate patient engagement into policy making from policy frameworks that reflect patient needs and expectations.
4. Interdisciplinary approaches to regulation are explored incorporating clinical, operational, and policy perspectives.

Limitations

While this systematic review provides valuable insights, it is not without limitations:

1. Furthermore, the review is limited to research studies published in the period between 2020 and 2024, and therefore omits potentially relevant research which predates the review or recent developments.
2. Language bias was introduced, and global representation was limited by inclusion of only English-language studies.
3. Because the findings are reliant on secondary data sources, the quality and scope of the original studies determines the validity of the findings of this study.
4. Because ten primary studies are focused on, however, the generalizability of findings may be limited, but at the same time, findings are considered reliable given the high quality of these studies.

Conclusion

A systematic review of this nature illustrates the critical importance of new health regulations as catalysts for improving patient safety, equity and operational efficiency in privatized healthcare delivery systems. Regulations ensure a safe environment, equitable healthcare access, and coherence among supporting services with the idea of the broader goals of healthcare. Leadership, training, and accreditation are presented as major enablers for successful regulatory implementation. The findings declare that well-structured regulatory frameworks can be transformational and yet can overcome challenges such as commercial priorities compared with patient centric healthcare.

Healthcare policymakers and stakeholders can leverage the limitations and future directions to come up with better designs and actualization of regulations in such a way that privatization culminates in sustainable, equitable and quality based healthcare systems.

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