

# UK osteopaths' regulation & compliance

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# Goals of Regulation

- To ensure patient safety
- To support the continual enhancement of the quality of care
- To maintain confidence and integrity of the register



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# Tools of regulation

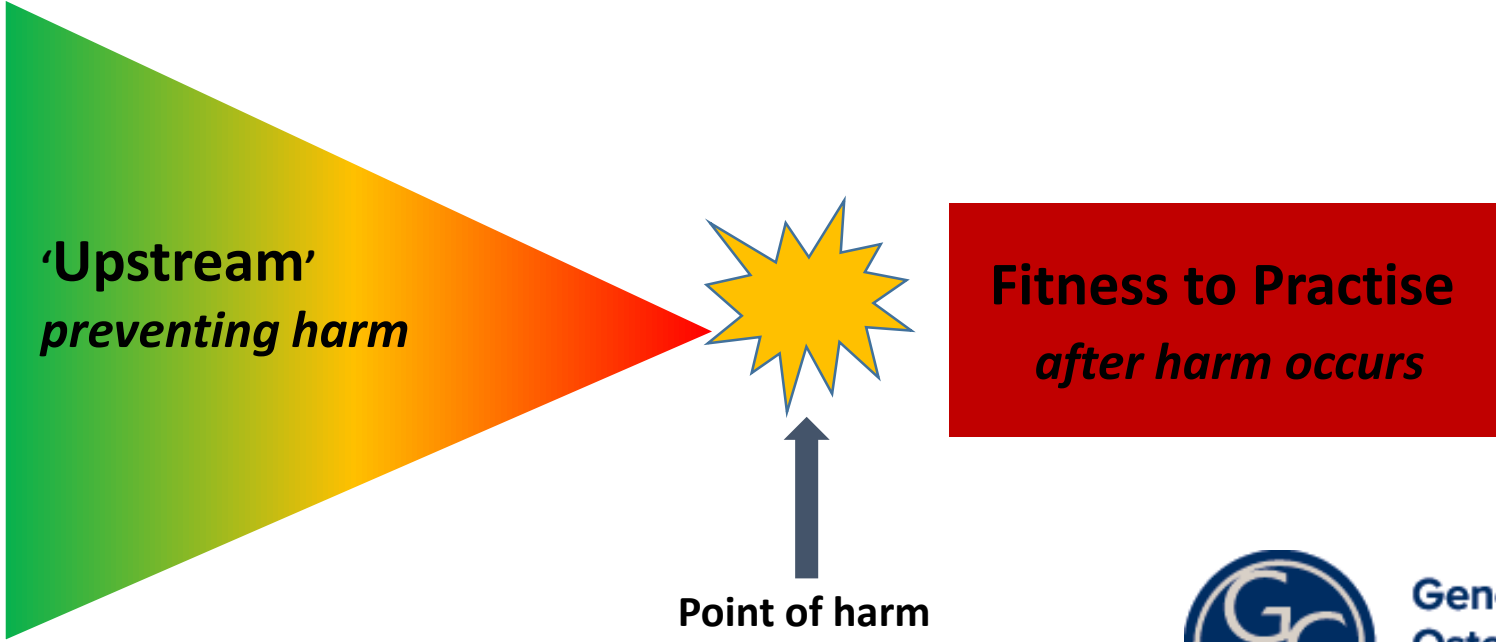
- Quality assurance of education
- Standards and assessment
- CPD: providing assurance of continuing fitness to practise
- Fitness to practise: restricting right to practise



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# Upstream – context

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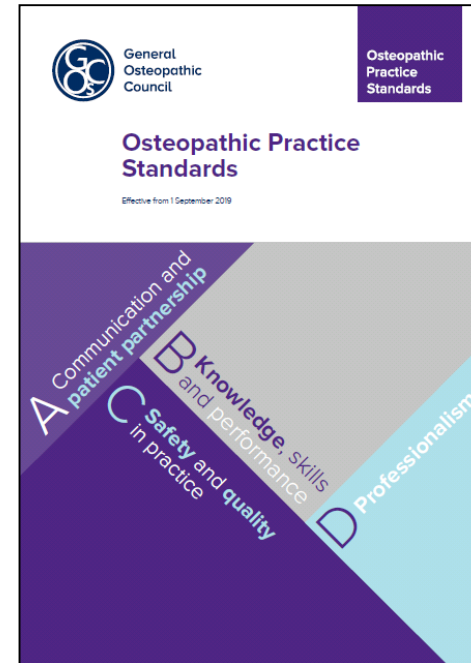
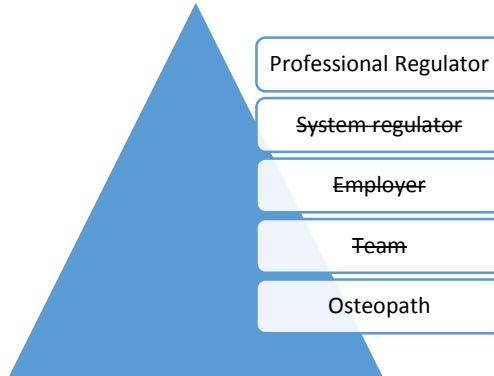


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# Context



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# New CPD Scheme from October 2018

- Three year cycle
- Link activities to the themes of the Osteopathic Practice Standards
- Undertake an objective activity
- Undertake some CPD in communication/consent
- Culminate in a Peer Discussion Review with another osteopath or healthcare professional to demonstrate that scheme has been met

See <http://cpd.osteopathy.org.uk>



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# CPD evaluation 2019

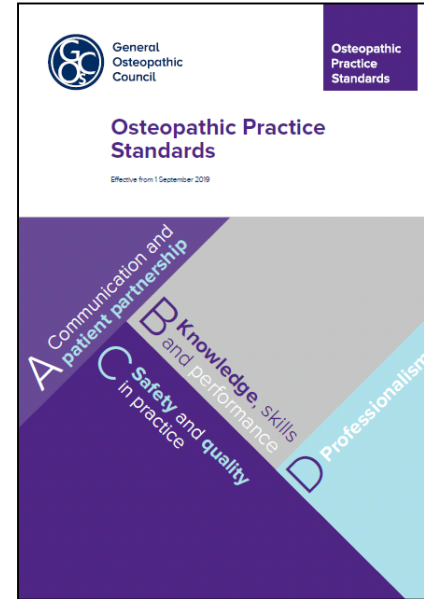
- An increase in understanding of the scheme and its elements
- An increased use of the four themes of the Osteopathic Practice Standards
- Increased CPD in the area of communication and consent
- Barriers to reflective practice reduced
- Objective activity slightly decreased an increased proportion of patient feedback activities and case-based discussion activities.



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# Osteopathic Practice Standards (2019)

- Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice combined into one set of standards.
- Retained existing four themes
- Standards reduced from 37 to 29
- Reduced repetition
- Reviewed language



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# Supporting the standards

- Regional groups and communities of practice
- Professional body
- Linking CPD and standards
- Webinar series to support osteopaths
- NCOR monitoring of concerns/complaints
- Research – Touch in manual therapy - values



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# Supporting the standards

- Articles in 'The Osteopath' (GOsC journal) – Focus on Standards – the 'why' of standards – sharing case studies
- Quality assurance – how are standards embedded and embodied in education – specific questions asked around this in annual reports from educational institutions.



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# Next steps

- We're eager to understand the impact of what we have done so far and the next phase of the follow up research to help us further evaluate the impact of the what we do, and how we might further enhance this.
- This study will make a large contribution to that understanding.



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# Research questions & methods



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- GOsC-funded research (2014-15): What regulatory activities & other factors encourage/inhibit osteopaths from complying with Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)?
- 2019-20: Follow-up interviews & survey (WBS funding; GOsC collaboration & support)
- Focus in this presentation is 2020 on-line survey results
- Closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March; 613 valid responses by osteopaths)
- SO, **CAVEAT**: PROVISIONAL FINDINGS; WORK IN PROGRESS

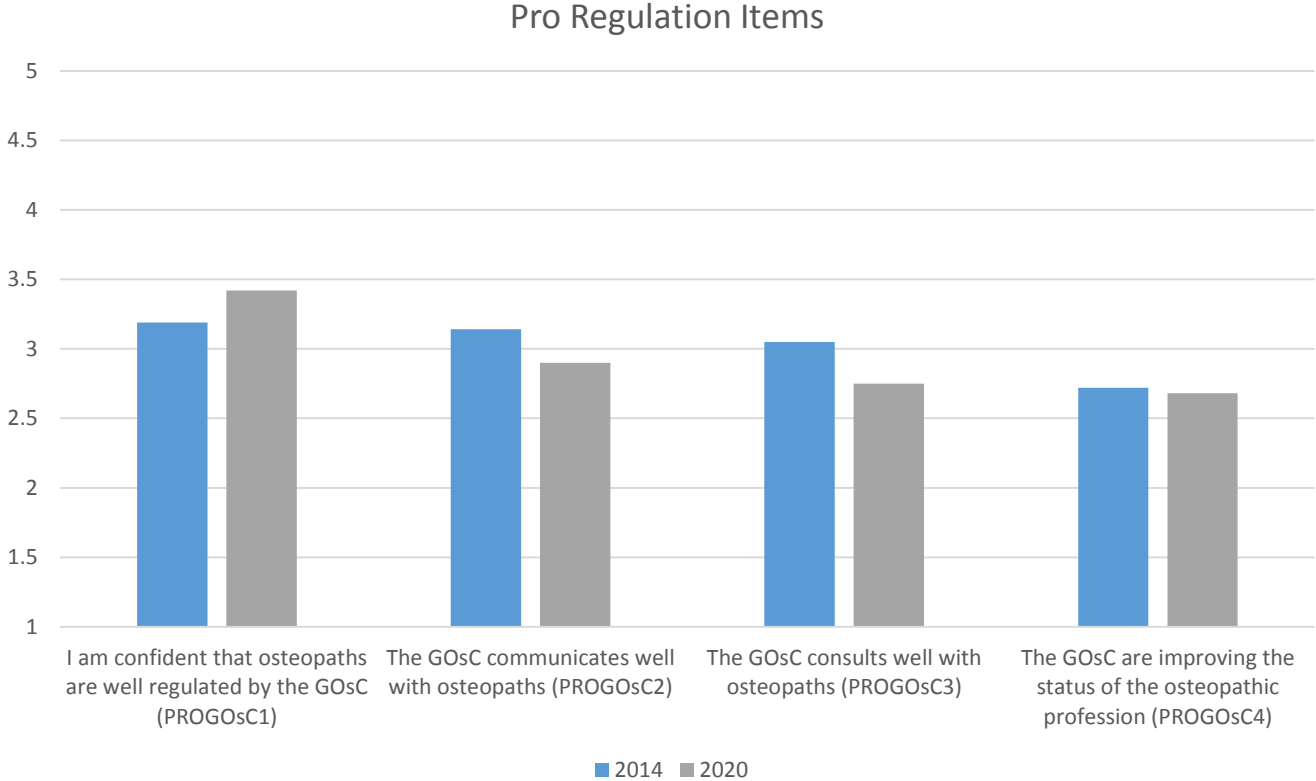
# Responsive regulation (Ayres & Braithwaite 1992)

- ‘Persuasion’ & ‘punishment’ synergy promotes compliance
- **Affirmative compliance:** understanding & belief in legitimacy of regulation (major motivator)
- **Fear-based compliance:** risk of being caught & severity of punishment for non-compliance (minor motivator)

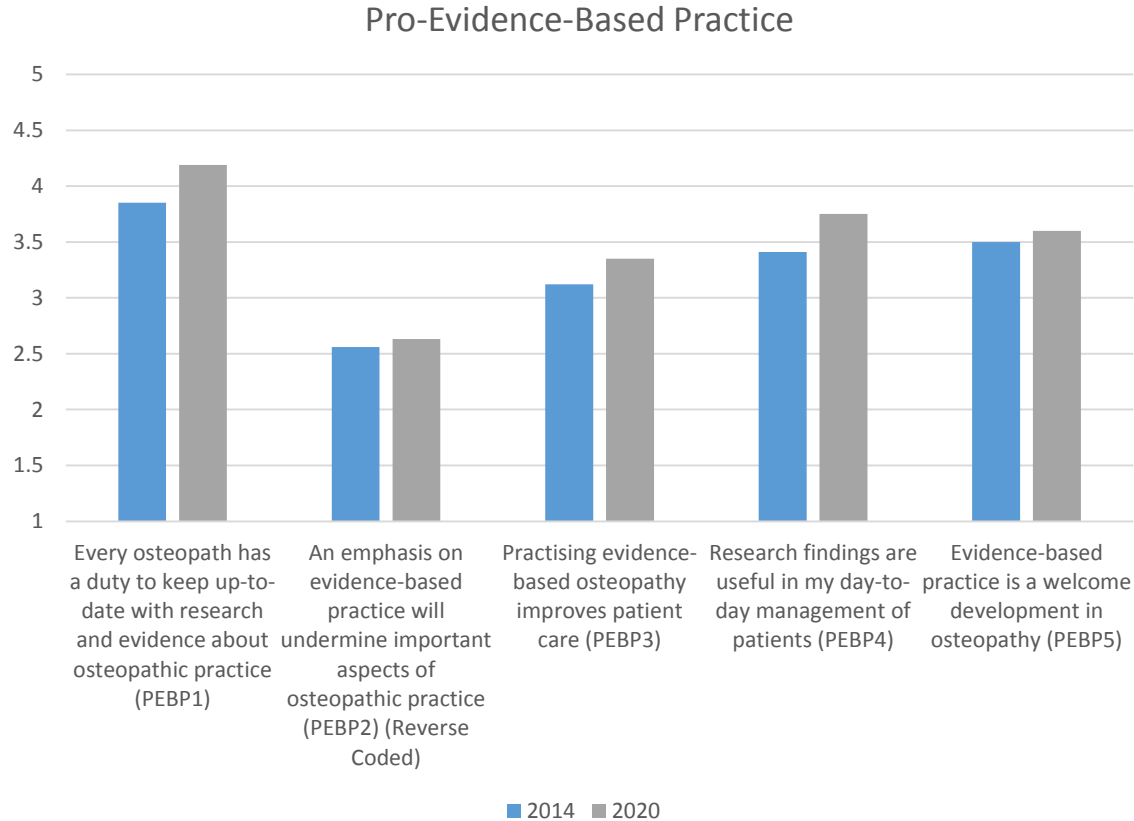
# Factors from 2014 study

- Pro-regulator
- Pro-evidence-based practice
- Inappropriate regulations
- Understanding regulations Fear-based compliance
- Fear-based compliance
- Compliance

# Perceptions of the GOsC (2014 vs. 2020; Mean response; 5 strongly agree; 1 strongly disagree)

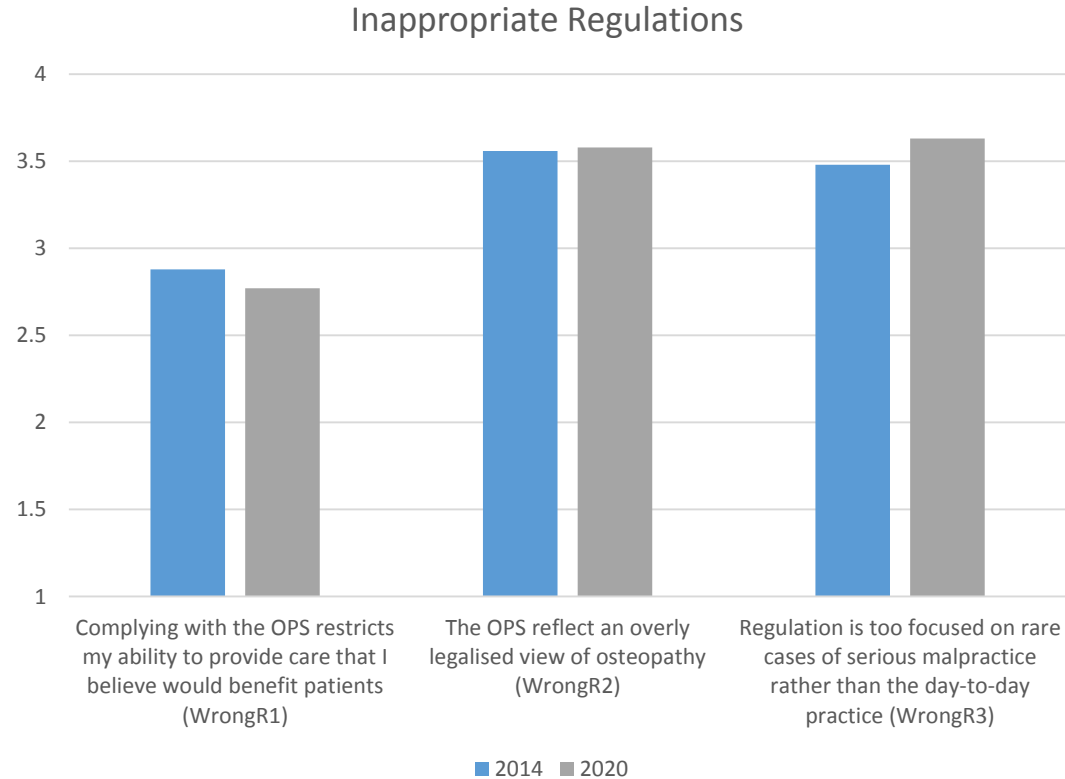


# Views of evidence-based practice (2014 vs. 2020 means)

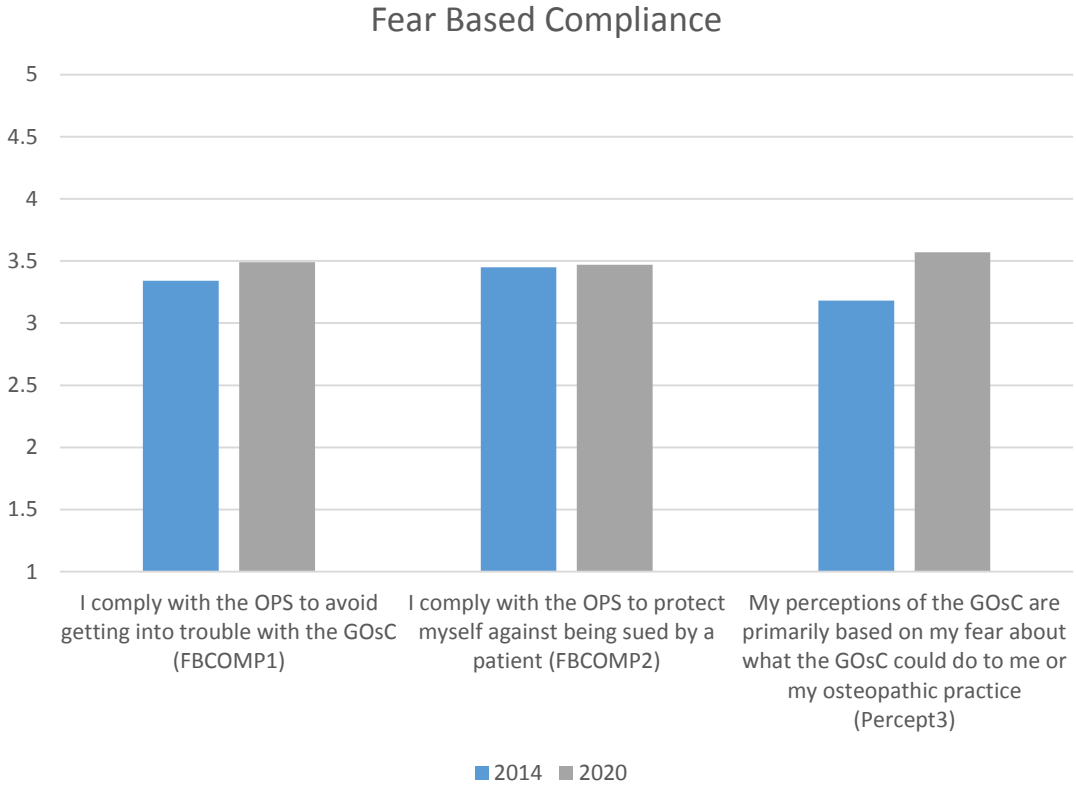




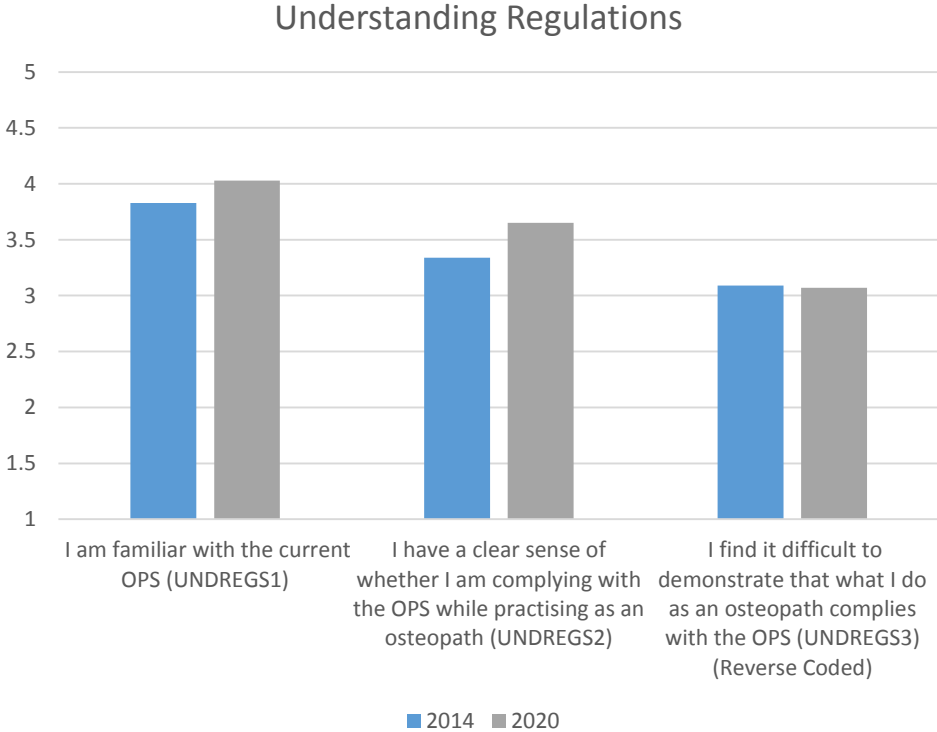
# Views of regulations' appropriateness (2014 vs. 2020 means)



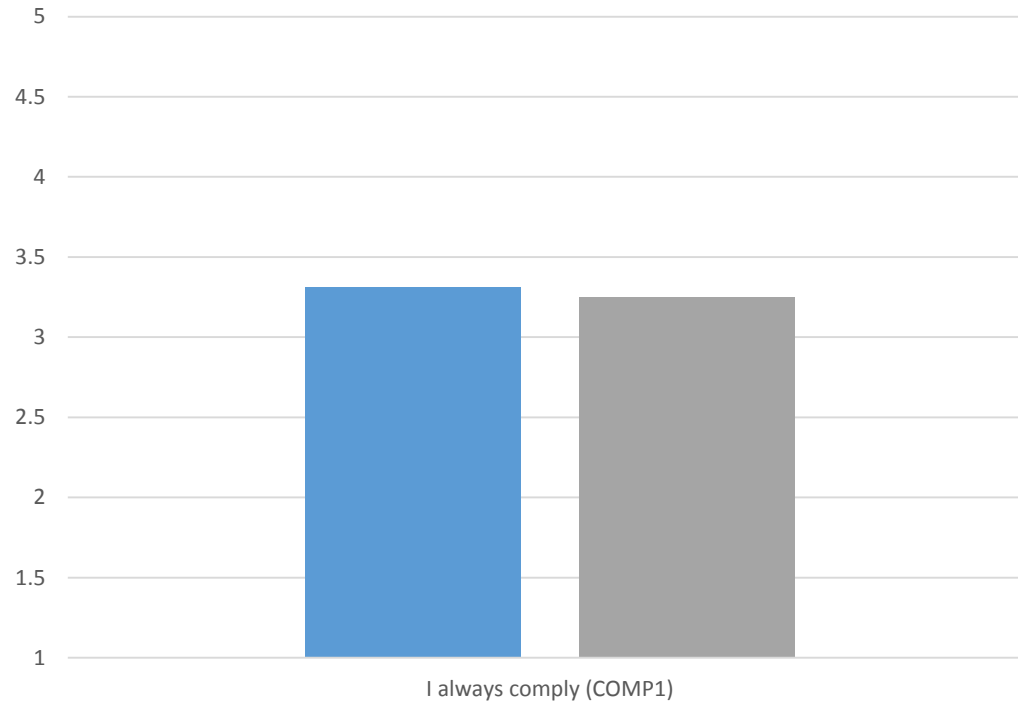
# Fear-based compliance (2014 vs. 2020 means)



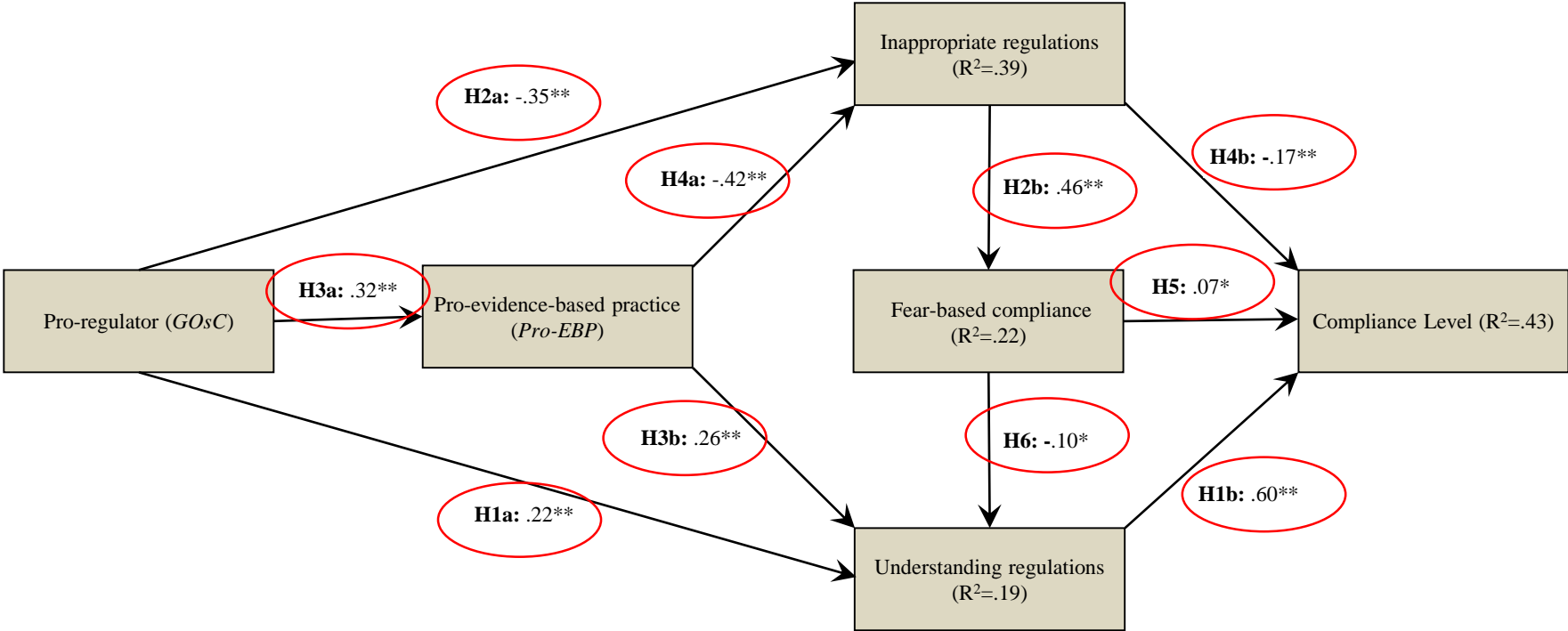
# Understanding regulations (2014 vs. 2020 means)



# Self-reported compliance (2014 vs. 2020 means)

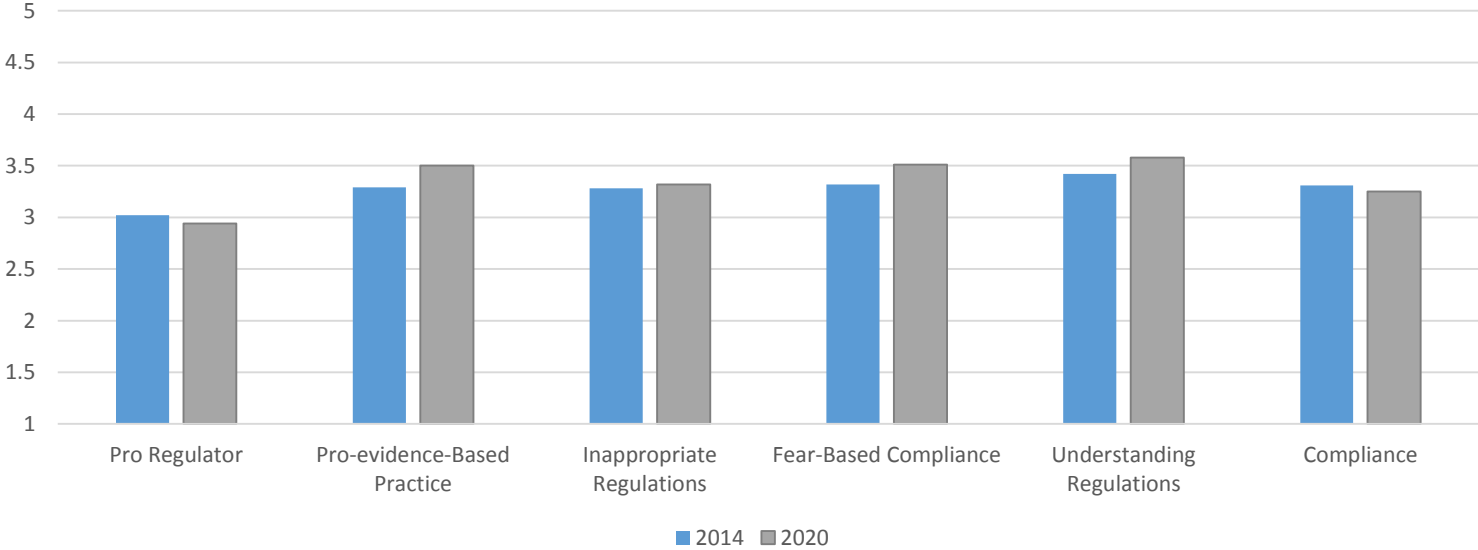


# Compliance model (from 2014 survey data)



# Factors (2014 vs. 2020 means)

Comparison of 2014 Scores vs 2020 Scores



(3.02 to 2.94)

(3.29 to 3.5:  
+0.21\*)

(3.31 to 3.33)

3.42 to 3.58  
(+0.16\*)

(3.36 to 3.56:  
+0.2\*)

(3.31 to 3.25)

# 2020 Factors

- Pro-regulator (8 items)
- Pro-evidence-based practice (6 items)
- Understanding regulations (6 items)
- Fear-based compliance (6 items)
- Fear of harming patients (3 items)
- Compliance (5 items)

# What predicts compliance (correlation between factors)?

PRO-REGULATOR? (+0.333\*\*)

→ YES (more compliance)

PRO-EVIDENCE-BASED? (+0.345\*\*)

→ YES (more compliance)

UNDERSTANDING REGULATIONS? (+0.497\*\*)

→ YES (more compliance)

FEAR OF HARMING PATIENTS? (-0.13)

→ NO

FEAR OF PUNISHMENT (-0.79)

→ NO (contra responsive  
regulation theory)

YEARS SINCE GRADUATION

→ YES (less compliance)