

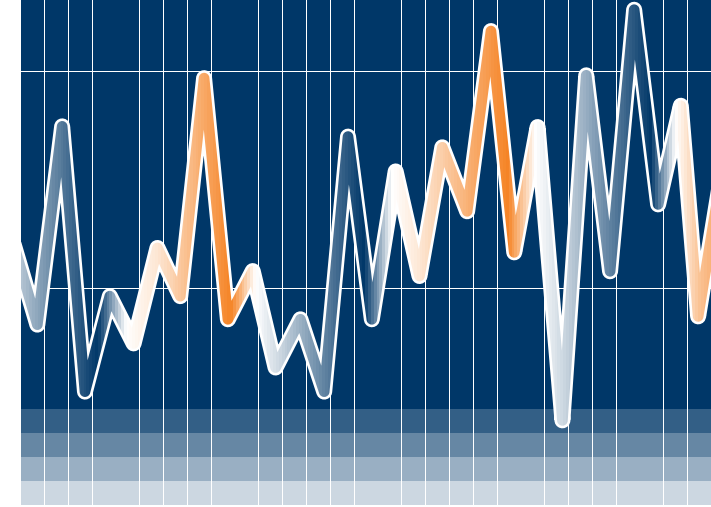
Knowing a patient's medical history makes new treatments safer and more specific.

What history guides your regulatory boards when they make sanctioning decisions?

The first analytical sanctioning tool of its kind.

  
VisualResearch, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1025 • Midlothian, VA 23113-1025

Would you treat patients without knowing their medical histories?



- VisualResearch, Inc. has developed a methodology that is now used in Virginia to inform sanctioning decisions.




VisualResearch, Inc.

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It's the first analytical sanctioning tool of its kind.

Sanctioning Reference Points



**Without  
reference  
points,  
sanctioning  
can be  
equally  
as risky.**

*"The system allows each respondent to be evaluated against a common set of factors, making sanctioning more predictable. The reference points should greatly benefit current and new board members, health professionals, and the general public."*

*Robert Nebiker, Director  
Virginia Department of Health Professions  
December, 2003*

# Sanctioning Reference Points

## A Sanctioning Reference Points System

gives health boards a clear picture of the process previously used to decide cases. It analyzes both case and respondent factors to arrive at "historical portraits" of past violations, including:

- Type of offense
- Patient vulnerability
- Extent of patient injury (physical/mental)
- Impairment (alcohol/drug/mental)
- Respondent prior board history

Your boards use these reference points as guides, not as hard-and-fast prescriptions. Applying reference points is voluntary and might not fit all cases. However, for most cases, reference points help regulators apply sanctions that are historically consistent and fair.

## A Powerful Tool for New and Future Board Members

makes past sanctioning outcomes readily available and eliminates reliance on anecdotal information. Wouldn't consistent actions make the work of your boards more predictable and less controversial?

**Sanctioning Reference Points** give your boards the powerful tool they need to apply the most appropriate sanctions to health professionals while serving the public best.

## Goals of Adopting a Sanctioning Reference Points System

- Raise the predictability of board sanctions
- Provide an education tool for new board members
- Add an empirical element to a process that is inherently subjective
- Supply a resource for board staff and attorneys
- Validate board member or staff recall of past cases
- Constrain the influence of undesirable factors, for example: race or ethnicity, gender, or board member tenure
- Help predict future caseloads and need for probation services and terms

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**For More Information** about how to develop a Sanctioning Reference Point system for your health regulatory boards, please contact:



**VisualResearch, Inc.**

Research, Data Analysis and Information Design

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