



Department of Forensic Medicine

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Faculty of Medicine

SYLLABUS

Subject:	Medical Ethics		
Year of study:	2 nd	Subject type:	compulsory
Study program:	General Medicine	Course duration:	1/1

AIM OF THE COURSE

The subject Medical Ethics defines the position of ethics in the health care profession and the necessity of ethical approach in the provision of health care and in communication with patients. Based on the knowledge of character requirements for medical profession and basic principles of medical ethics, it provides a comprehensive view on solving complicated ethical issues in selected areas of medical practice, such as informed consent of the patient, terminally ill and dying patients, euthanasia, assisted suicide, biomedical research, etc. Recognition of moral values and ethical basis of medical profession is as important for medical students as obtaining professional knowledge regarding diseases necessary to carry out their future profession.

TEACHING: lectures, practicals

ASSESSMENT: exam

SYLLABUS

Ethics and morality. Bioethics and Medical Ethics. Landmark events in the evolution of bioethics. Global ethics and bioethics. Goals and ethical aspects of health care. Medical ethics. The basic principles of medical ethics. Ethical dilemma. The ethics of medical education. UPJŠ in Košice Code of Student Conduct. Hippocratic Oath. Physician's Pledge. Character requirements for medical profession. WMA International Code of Medical Ethics. Ethical Code for Health Care Providers in Slovakia.

Important international conventions and declarations relevant to the health care professions. Patients' rights. Slovak Medical Chamber and Health Care Surveillance Authority in Slovakia. Human dignity in health care. Doctor – patient relationship. Informed consent/refusal – ethical and legal issues. Previously expressed wish of the patient.

Communication in medical care. Guide to medical interview. Approach to specific patient groups. Burnout syndrome in medical profession.

Ethical and legal issues in pediatrics. The rights of hospitalized children.

Elderly patient. Risks in the hospital by elderly patients. Terminal illness. Ethical aspects of resuscitation and intensive care. Futile treatment. Dying patient – ethical and legal issues. Ethical issues in thanatology. Euthanasia and dysthanasia. Assisted suicide.

Ethical aspects of organ and tissue transplantation. Living and dead donors. Ethical status of the dead human body. Ethics of autopsy and exhumation. Ethical aspects of examination in forensic medicine and pathology.

Reproductive medicine and responsible parenthood. Methods used to achieve or prevent pregnancy. Surrogacy. Ethical issues of abortions. Surrogacy.

Ethical issues in selected medical divisions [neonatal and fetal medicine, gynecology and obstetrics, surgery, nephrology, psychiatry, prehospital emergency care]. Ethics of expert activities in medicine.

Ethics in biomedical research. Ethical and legal regulations regarding biomedical research involving human subjects. Ethical issues in animal experimentation. Ethics Committees. Publication ethics.

Ethical issues in human genetics and genomics. Genetic testing and preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Gene therapy and genetic manipulation. Ethics of 'designer babies'. Ethical aspects of human cloning. Ethical issues in stem cell research and therapy.