



ETHICS IN MEDICINE FOR DENTAL STUDENTS

LEARNING-ACHIEVEMENT-BASED SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Program:	Dentistry
Course:	Ethics in Medicine for Dental Students – FOG-MA131, FOG-MA132
Type of subject:	compulsory
Academic year and semester:	Year II. / Fall semester
Head of Department:	Oguz Kelemen M.D., Ph.D., Habil – associate professor
Course coordinator:	Gergely Tari Ph.D. – bioethicist, senior lecturer Department of Behavioral Sciences (6722 Szeged Mars square 20.) e-mail: tari.gergely.robert@med.u-szeged.hu
Type of class:	lecture & practice
Weekly hours:	1 + 1
Credit vale:	1 + 1
Type of examination:	examination (5); term mark (5)
Preliminary requirements:	Introduction to Medicine – FOG-MAC011, FOG-MAC012 (recommended)

Purpose of course:

One of the main objectives of the course is to highlight the inherently ethical nature of medical activity. Besides the clarification of the basic values of medical professionalism the course gives an insight into the most important ethical quandaries raised by modern technological medicine and biology. During the educational process, the students acquire the methods of moral reasoning.

One of the aims of the class is to provide cognitive knowledge on the main ideas of moral philosophy, on the most important problems in biomedical ethics, and on the moral solutions being acceptable to these problems. The other aim of the classes is to develop the students' ability to use adequate moral reasoning and to pursue careful moral deliberation. Case studies, patients' stories can sensitize students to ethical problems occurring in medical settings and can give them experiences in the clarification and solution of ethical conflicts. Practical classes have a third objective too, it intends to influence and form the students' moral behaviour mainly by the help of confrontation with their own moral commitments.

Outcome requirements:

Knowledge

- Knows in depth the bioethical principles (Non-maleficence; Beneficence; Justice; Autonomy).
- Comprehensively aware of the patient rights included in the Act No. CLIV of 1997 on Health.
- Knows the doctrine of informed consent and shared decision making including the exceptional cases

Competences

- According to the principles of moral reasoning student can formulate criticism individually in connection with biomedicine.
- Students can recognize ethical problems and dilemmas and if necessary refer them to their supervisors.

Attitudes

- Respects the sociocultural differences in relation to medical activity.



- Endeavor to describe precisely and factually ethical dilemmas refraining from making mistakes concerning moral reasoning. (e.g.: ad hominem reasoning).
- Respect of human life and harm reduction is their foremost guiding principle.
- Committed to the respect of patient's autonomy, human dignity and confidentiality.

Autonomy and responsibility

- Able to solve medical ethical dilemmas under supervision.
- Student must refer all the professional ethical problems that are beyond his competence towards to his supervisor.
- While working alone or in team always complies with the rights and laws concerning the medical profession.

Topics:

- The meaning of ethics and its parts.
- The role of morality in the formation of traditional medical ethics.
- Deontological and consequentialist ethical theories.
- The birth of bioethics and its' four ethical principles.
- The doctrine of informed consent, the principle of respect for autonomy, the rights of the patient.
- Different perspectives of doctor-patient relationship.
- The ethical problems of organ and tissue transplantation.
- The ethical aspects of technological development in the field of human reproduction.
- The moral questions of contraception and abortion.
- Ethical decisions at the end of life: refusal/withdrawal of life saving and life sustaining treatments, alleviation of pain, physician assisted suicide, active euthanasia, hospice.
- The ethics of professional-professional relationship, the questions of medical consultation.
- Justice in healthcare, macro- and micro-allocation.

Methods:

- Detailed lectures and seminars (all classes will be held as contact lessons)
- Case based approach: application of the moral principles and values with good examples
- Training exercises
- Situational exercises

Criteria of the competition of the course:

- Active participation at the lectures and practices as per the general regulations
- Attendance of lectures is not compulsory, however Students will get exemption from the end-semester essay question if they attend 6 out of 7 lectures
- Attendance of practices is mandatory (only one absences is allowed)
- Completing the written end-semester test on Coospace
- Students are required to perform a presentation (15 minutes) based on a scientific article and a case study connected to their chosen topic. PowerPoint/Prezi means the required form of the presentations

Evaluation:

Lecture (examination)

- Written test (study material: materials of lectures and seminars, compulsory literature)



- Evaluations criteria at the examination: factual knowledge and autonomous usage of the appropriated facts, connections, moral principles and values

Practice (term mark)

- Participation at the practice lessons is mandatory (only one absence is allowed)
- Students are required to perform a presentation (15 minutes) based on a scientific article and a case study connected to their chosen topic. PowerPoint/Prezi means the required form of the presentations.

Mandatory reading list:

- *World Medical Association* (WMA, <http://www.wma.net/en/60about/index.html>)
- *WMA Ethics Manual* (<http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/resources.htm>)
- *WMA Policy* (<http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>)
- *The Declaration of Geneva* (<http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/geneva/>)
- *The Declaration of Helsinki* (<http://www.fda.gov/oc/health/helsinki89.html>)
- Lisa Schwartz, Paul E. Preece, Robert A. Hendry: *Medical Ethics – A Case-Based Approach*. WB Saunders, 2002.

Recommended reading list:

- Ronald Munson: *Intervention and Reflection. Basic Issues in Medical Ethics* (Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2004)
- *Medical Ethics Today The BMA's handbook of ethics and law*. (3rd edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)