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Approved

by the meeting of the Council of Faculty of Dentistry minutes no. 6 of 24.03.2015

Dean of Faculty of Dentistry

PhD, Professor

Approved

By the meeting of the Department of Forensic Medicine minutes no. 6 of 26.01.2018

Head of Department of Forensic Medicine,

PhD, Assoc. Professor

A. Pădure

SYLLABUS FOR STUDENTS OF

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

Name of the course: Forensic Medicine and Medical Law

Code of the course: S.10.O.067

Type of the course: Compulsory discipline

Total number of hours - 30

lectures – 12 hours, practical lessons – 18 hours

Number of credits provided for the course: 2

PhD, Associate Professor Andrei Pădure

PhD, Associate Professor Vasile Şarpe



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I. Aim of the discipline Forensic Medicine:

The aim of the course is to study specific examination and description of injuries in persons subjected to aggression and in cadavers. Methodology of making clinical diagnosis and determination of mechanisms causing injuries depending on traumatic object is taught. The role of clinical and paraclinical information in the process of elaboration of medical-legal conclusions is discussed.

Aim of the discipline Medical Law:

The aim of the course is to familiarize future physicians with concepts and principles of medical law. Laws regarding medical activity in the Republic of Moldova, rights and responsibilities of medical staff and patients are discussed. Methods and mode of obtaining the informed consent or voluntary refusal of medical assistance are presented. Deficiencies in medical practice, juridical responsibility, conditions to implead medical personnel are studied.

II. Objectives obtained in teaching the discipline Forensic Medicine:

At the level of knowledge and understanding:

- to know the importance of forensic medicine and its position in the structure of medical disciplines;
- to know the object and subjects of forensic medicine;
- to know the procedural bases of forensic expertise;
- to identify mechanisms causing injuries;
- to distinguish and describe morphological characteristics of lesions due to mechanical agents;
- to know reasons for person's examination and qualification criteria of the degree of injury severity;
- to define notions of death, cause of death and to know cadaveric changes;
- to know reasons for forensic examination of cadaver and principles of forensic autopsy.

At the level of application:

- to determine mechanisms causing injuries;
- to differentiate injuries according to the vulnerable agent and to make and reason the diagnosis;
- to describe correctly morphological characteristics of lesions due to mechanic agents;
- to conduct a forensic examination of injured person;
- to assess correctly the degree of injury severity;
- be able to assess the causal relationship between various medical phenomena, including trauma and death.

At the level of integration

- to assess the importance of forensic medicine in the context of general medicine and its integration with legal and medical related disciplines;
- to be aware of the need to acquire of knowledge and practical skills in the field of forensic medicine for a clinician;
- to obtain knowledge in theory and practical skills in forensic medicine.



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Objectives obtained in teaching the discipline Medical Law:

At the level of knowledge and understanding:

- to know the concept of medical law, its subjects, principles and sources;
- to know fundamental principles of health system organization in the country;
- to know the rights and obligations of a physician, the legal regulations to practice medicine;
- to define the main concepts of medical law (patient as a consumer of health services, medical act, consent, medical information and medical confidentiality, medical error and mistake, iatrogenic disease, responsibility etc.);
- to know patient's rights, and the conditions of their constraint;
- to know the requirements before giving an informed consent or voluntary refusal of medical intervention;
- to know the types of juridical responsibility and their presumption;
- to know law-breakings of medical staff and pharmaceutical workers stipulated by the Penal Code;
- to know the requirements elaboration before working with patient's medical files;
- to know the notion of clinical diagnosis, its structure, and the principles of its making and formulation.

At the level of application:

- to explain to a patient his/her rights, to respect and ensure them during medical professional activity;
- to apply the anti-paternalistic relationship to a patient;
- to be able to inform a patient of law requirements;
- to use the principle of confidentiality related to medical secrecy;
- to be able to obtain and write correctly the patient's informed consent;
- to be able to obtain and write correctly voluntary patient's refusal of medical intervention;
- to elaborate the medical documentation according to submitted requirements;
- to assess the presence of deficiencies in medical work;
- to identify circumstances and conditions stipulated by the Criminal Code as elements of offenses related to exercise the medical profession;

At the level of integration

- to understand the importance of mastering the knowledge and practical skills in the field of medical law;
- to comply with the principles of ethics and deontology in medical activity.

III. Provisional terms and conditions:

Forensic medicine is a complex medical science that supplies the law enforcement with medical and biological information in order to ascertain juridical truth. Learning it as a university discipline allows acquisition of knowledge needed to make the morphological diagnosis of an injury (on persons and cadavers); describe correctly changes and injuries caused by an external agent; assess a causal relationship between trauma and death; determine the degree of injury severity of assaulted persons; acquire practical skills to solve emergency situational problems in case of law enforcement call; know physician's tasks at the scene of death.



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Medical law is a set of legal rules which control the property and non-property professional relationship between medical staff and patients, or specific relationships of healthcare institutions, and it is characterized by the legal equality of participants in these relations. Its studying at the university level will allow to gain the necessary knowledge for the further activity of future doctors, promote anti-paternalistic relations with patients, protect their rights, obtain correctly the informed consent and patient's refusal, prepare adequate medical documentation, and to understand the conditions to implead medical personnel.

IV. Basic contents of the course:

A. Lectures:

No.	Theme	Number of hours
	Forensic Medicine	
1.	Introduction to forensic medicine. Subject, organization and basis of procedure of forensic expertise.	2
2.	Forensic thanatology. Medical and juridical aspects of the resuscitation, transplantation, euthanasia. Medical-legal examination of cadaver.	2
3.	Medico-legal traumatology.	2
	Total for Forensic medicine	6

Medical Law		
4.	Medical law. Healthcare law. Fundamental rights of a patient. The Law regarding patient rights and responsibilities.	3
5.	Legal value of medical documents and requirements to their perfecting. Principles of clinical diagnosis formulation. Juridical responsibility of the medical staff.	3
	Total for Medical law	10
	Total lectures	24

B. Practical lessons:

No.	Theme	Number of hours
Forensic Medicine		
1.	Forensic thanatology. Medical and juridical aspects of the resuscitation, transplantation, euthanasia. Medical-legal examination of cadaver.	4
2.	Medico-legal expertise of injuries due to blunt and sharp objects. Requirements to medical documents perfecting. Principles of clinical diagnosis formulation.	4
3.	Medico-legal examination of a person.	4
4.	Medico-legal expertise of fire-arm injuries.	3
	Total for Forensic medicine	15

Medical Law		
5	Fundamental rights of a patient. The Law regarding patient rights and	3
5.	responsibilities. Iatrogenic disease, error and mistake in medical practice.	3
	Total for Medical law 3	
	Total practical sessions	18



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V. Recommended literature:

A. Compulsory:

- 1. Sheperd R. Simpson's Forensic Medicine. London: Arnold, 2003.
- 2. Şarpe V. Medico-legal examination of the person. Chişinău, 2013.
- 3. Şarpe V. Medico-legal examination of the cadaver. Chişinău, 2013.
- 4. Gramma R., Dodon I., Novac T. Health and Human Rights. Chişinău, 2011.
- 5. Law of healthcare (nr.411). Posted: Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova, 22.06.1995, nr.34.
- 6. Law regarding patient rights and responsibilities (nr.263). Posted: Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova, 30.12.2005, nr. 176-181.
- 7. Law regarding the exercise the profession of doctor (nr.264). Posted: Monitorul Oficial al Republicii Moldova, 23.12.2005, nr. 172-175.

B. Additional:

- 1. DiMaio V.J. M., DiMaio D.J. Forensic Pathology (second edition). Boca Raton, Florida, USA: CRC Press, 2001.
- 2. Catanese Ch. Color Atlas of Forensic Medicine and Pathology. CRC Press, 2009.
- 3. Shiffman M.A. Ethics in Forensic Science and Medicine: Guidelines for the Forensic Expert and the Attorney. Charles C Thomas Pub Ltd, 2000.

VI. Teaching and learning methods:

Forensic Medicine and Medical Law are taught in a classical manner: lectures, seminars and practical sessions. Some theoretical issues are discussed at seminars based on situational problems. At practical sessions students assist at the autopsy and autopsy independently with drafting an autopsy report, take part in the examination of persons, subjected to aggression, study wet and dry museum preparations, and obtain patient consent or refusal in role plays. The department reserves the right to carry out some practical work in an interactive manner.

VII. Suggestions for individual activity:

From the pedagogical point of view, one of the least effective methods of learning is passive attending classes, even when they are structured and illustrated very thoroughly.

If you want to succeed in acquiring forensic medicine and medical law, it is necessary to work actively with the material. What this means:

- 1. First read the material. Make notes. Try to formulate the main moments. Study the schemes and pictures from the book.
- 2. Come to lectures and practical sessions, but not for attendance! Doing otherwise it's unlikely that you reach the requirements. Abstract carefully. Process information and ask yourself: Do you agree with the teacher? Do you understand what it is? Is the taught material the same as in the book?
- 3. Ask questions! Ask the teacher, each other, yourself. Ask in the lecture room, in the classroom, in the hallways, teachers' offices. Asking means that you try to understand and process the taught material and it can only be welcomed.



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4. Organize students into groups and discuss regularly the material. Small work groups are more efficient than individual work. Besides, the ability to explain the acquired material to colleagues is very useful for future.

VIII. Methods of assessment

During the course of Forensic Medicine and Medical Law students are evaluated daily with marks from 10 to 0 based on oral answer and testing skills. The course ends with simple colloquium. Students can be admitted to the colloquium if they do not have absences and their mark is positive – 5 and over. The colloquium consists of oral answer and/or written test and is considered passed if the final mark is above 5. In this case "attested" is recorded.

Absence on the colloquium without good reason is recorded as "absent" and is equivalent to "0" (zero). The student has the right to re-take the colloquium twice.

IX. Language of study:

English