



Department of Forensic Medicine

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
Faculty of Medicine

SYLLABUS

Subject:	Medical Law		
Year of study:	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th	Subject type:	elective
Study program:	General Medicine	Course duration:	1/1

AIM OF THE COURSE

Every doctor is obliged to practice his profession in accordance with generally binding legal regulations. Knowledge of the legal norms concerning provision of health care, basic duties of a health care professional, as well as basic rights and obligations of patients, is therefore a necessary requirement of every future doctor. The aim of teaching the subject Medical Law is development of legal thinking required for everyday situations arising during the provision of health care such as informed consent of the patient, management and access to the medical records, resolution of legal issues in the relationship between the doctor and the patient, the doctor and his/her colleagues, and the doctor and the employer, medical errors, expert activities, and cooperation with state authorities, including law enforcement agencies.

TEACHING: lectures, practicals

ASSESSMENT: exam

SYLLABUS

Medical law. Health care regulations in different countries. Rights and duties of people during provision of health care. Patients' rights. Health insurance, medicine and law. Health Care Surveillance Authority and its role in Slovak Republic. International organizations in health care. Legal requirements to medical profession. Rights and duties of health care professionals: doctor, nurse, medical laboratory technician. *De lege artis*. Confidentiality in medicine. Informed consent in medical care. Informed refusal in medical care. Difficult patient – legal approach. Types of legal responsibilities of the doctor. Duty of care. Medical malpractice: errors, mistakes, negligence. Civil vs. criminal case of medical malpractice. Legal issues related to the dying patient. Withholding and withdrawing life sustaining treatment. Physician assisted dying. Legal aspect of autopsy practice. Legal status of human corpse. Legal issues in reproductive medicine. Assisted reproduction. Surrogacy. Abortion laws. Legal regulations of biomedical research. Animal experimentation. Research involving human subjects. Legal regulations of genetic testing and therapy. Legal regulations of stem cell research and human cloning. Expert activity in health care. Doctor as a witness. Doctor as an expert witness. Compensation of pain and deteriorated work capacity.