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MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLEVEN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

APPROVE:

DEAN:

/ Prof. Dr. A. Asparuhov, MD, PhD, DSc /


FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

PROGRAMME MEDICAL ETHICS

(in accordance with the procedure СОПКО PR 03.08.00-v.01/06)

**MEDICAL STUDENTS
MASTER DEGREE**

**PLEVEN
2019**

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Compulsory

Second year, Fourth semester

Credits: 2,5

Total hours: 30 hours - 15 hours lectures and 15 hours seminars

Faculty

Prof. Dr Silviya Aleksandrova-Yankulovska, MD, Phd, DSc, MAS, tel. 884 196

Senior Assistant Atanas Anov, PhD, tel. 884 226

OBJECTIVES


Medical ethics teaching aims at enabling students to understand the ethical problems facing the medical profession nowadays; getting them acquainted with the codes of conduct and specific ethical documents adopted by the World Medical Association as well as the basic principles of medical ethics; providing of broad understanding of hot ethical debates; training in ethical case analysis.

Ethical knowledge is organized in two parts:

1. Basic ethical theory – terminology, methods and theories of ethics, basic principles, models of relationship, patients' rights and informed consent.
2. Special problems – reproductive ethics, ethics of death and dying; ethical problems of research and human experimentation, transplantation, justice and allocation of resources.

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Define the main areas of medical ethics.
- Explain the major ethical methods and theories.
- Explain basic principles of medical ethics and apply them to ethical case analysis.
- Determine ethical principles in ethical documents adopted by the World medical Association.
- State the basic patient's rights.
- Discuss the different ethical views on contraception and abortion as well as to interpret possible ethical conflicts derived from the modern reproductive technologies.
- Determine the focus of care and attention of the terminally ill.

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- Distinguish different types of euthanasia and discuss arguments for and against the active euthanasia.
- State the main principles of human experimentation according to Declaration of Helsinki.
- Discuss general ethical problems of transplantation and special ethical problems of foetal tissue transplantation, living and cadaver donation.
- Determine the ethical dilemmas in allocating medical resources.
- Suggest appropriate solutions for particular cases related to distribution of resources in medical practice.

Educational forms:

- Lectures
- Seminars

Methods of education:


- interactive lectures
- seminars
- ethical cases analysis
- video films discussion
- documents' analysis

Control and assessment:

- Two semestrial tests.
- Assessment of individual assignments.
- Examination test.
- Case analysis.

CONTENT

№	LECTURES	Hours
1	Introduction to bioethics. Principles of bioethics.	2


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2	Decision-making in medical practice.	2
3	Human rights in patient care. Informed consent.	2
4	Reproductive ethics.	2
5	Ethical issues in elderly care.	2
6	Research ethics. Transplantation ethics.	2
7	Justice in health care. Public health ethics.	2
8	Clinical Ethics Consultation.	1

№	SEMINARS	Hours
1	Codes of ethics. Principles of bioethics.	2
2	Confidentiality. Informed consent. Models of relationship.	2
3	<i>Ethical case analysis.</i> Ethical aspects of human reproduction.	2
4	Ethical problems of death and dying. <i>Test Reproduction ethics.</i>	2
5	Euthanasia. <i>Film presentation and discussion.</i>	2
6	Ethical problems of research. Organ transplantation.	2
7	Allocation of medical resources. Public health ethics. <i>Training test.</i>	2
8	General preparation for the exam.	1


LECTURES THESES

1. **Introduction to bioethics. Principles of ethics /2 hours./** Definitions of ethics – medical ethics, healthcare ethics, bioethics. Subject field of bioethics. Methods of ethics: arguments, conceptual analysis, consistency and case comparison, reasoning through principles. Theories of ethics – definitions, general characteristics. Types of ethical theories – classical and modern theories; theories focused on the person, on the

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act and on the consequences – ethics of virtue, ethics of principles, ethics of consequences. Care ethics/Family ethics. Ethics of life course. Applied ethics (principlism) – respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice.

2. **Decision-making in medical practice. Confidentiality in medical practice. Models of physician-patient relationships /2 hours/.** Patient Adapted Paternalism. Patient Preference-Satisfaction Paternalism. Shared Rational Deliberative Paternalism. Informed Patient Choice. Interpretative Patient Choice. Advised Patient Choice. Shared Rational Deliberative Patient Choice. Shared Rational Deliberative Joint Decision (ideal). Professionally Driven Best Interest Compromise Model. **Material for self-preparation: Confidentiality** – definition, importance for medical practice, scope, basic aspects, characteristics. When the information about the patient can be disclosed to a third party – legal requirements to reveal patient information, duty to warn, Tarasoff principle and its limitation. Types of information and levels of breach of confidentiality. Confidentiality issue in specific diseases – HIV and confidentiality. **Models of relationship** – classical triad – paternalistic model, autonomous model, partnership model – characteristics, decision-making power, advantages and disadvantages of different models. Types of paternalism – strong, weak, active, passive. Models by Emanuel&Emanuel: paternalistic, informative, interpretative, deliberative model – goals of interaction, physician’s obligations, role of patient’s values, concept of autonomy. Application of different models in clinical practice.
3. **Human rights in patient care. Informed consent /2 hours/.** *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* - Rights to Liberty and Security of person; Privacy; Access to Information; Bodily integrity; Life; Highest attainable standard of mental and physical health; Freedom of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; participation in public policy; Equality and freedom from discrimination; Effective remedy. Content, state responsibilities, application to mental health, infectious diseases control and reproductive health of different rights. **WMA Declaration of Patients’ Rights (Declaration of Lisbon)** – Rights to Medical care of good quality; Freedom of choice; Self-determination; Unconscious patient; Legally incompetent patient; Procedures against patient will; Information; Confidentiality; Health education; Dignity; Religious assistance. **Interactive learning:** 15-minutes movie and discussion “50

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milligrams is not enough” official source Open Society Foundation: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/videos/50-milligrams-not-enough> – Which human and patient’s rights are violated in the movie? Informed consent – definition, arguments in favour and against. Criteria for validity of informed consent – competency, disclosure, voluntariness. Standards of disclosure: professional standard, reasonable person standard, subjective standard; waiver, therapeutic privilege. *Bethany Hughe’s case.*


4. **Reproductive ethics. Ethics and genetics /2 hours/.** The right to reproduce. Procreative balance and motivation restriction principles. Views on parenthood. Social eggs freezing. *Ethics and genetics* – gene therapy, arguments for and against germline therapy, genetic testing and principle of neutrality, access to genetic data. Cloning – definition, reproductive and therapeutic cloning, arguments for and against. **Material for self-preparation: *Ethical problems of limiting reproduction. Contraception*** – personal vs. professional values, contraception and minors, contraception and mentally ill. WMA Statement on Family Planning and the Right of a Woman to Contraception. ***Sterilisation*** – ethical concerns; legal framework; compulsory sterilization laws – Nazi Germany Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring. Eugenics – definition, positive and negative eugenics, history. WMA Statement on Forced and Coerced Sterilisation. ***Abortion*** – conceptional and graduation theory on the moral status of the embryo; pro-life, pro-choice views towards abortion; sex-preselection. ***Artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilisation, ICSI*** – ethical concerns and contemporary standpoints from WMA Statement on assisted reproductive technologies. *Diane Blood’s case.* Surrogate motherhood – definition, arguments for and against, legal frameworks. ***Interactive learning:*** 5-minutes movie and discussion “Rent a womb: Outsourcing Surrogacy in India.”
5. **Ethical issues in elderly care. /2 hours/.** Care for dementia patients. Socially assistive robots. Material for self-preparation: **Ethical issues at the end of life. Palliative/hospice care. Euthanasia** Terminally ill patients – definition, criteria, rights of terminally ill. The concept of “good death” – abstract and concrete notions, the contribution of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross. Application of basic ethical principles in end-of-life care. Advance directives. Truth telling – arguments for and against,

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general rules of truth telling, Robert Buckman’s 6-steps protocol of delivery of bad news. **Interactive learning:** 7-minutes movie and discussion “How Should Providers Deliver Bad News” /Duke University educational materials/. Relief of pain and suffering – principle of double effect. **Hospice/palliative care** - definitions, models of provision. **Euthanasia** - definition, history /Nazi euthanasia programme/, Dutch and Belgian laws, forms of euthanasia, arguments for and against. Physician-assisted suicide.

6. **Research ethics. Transplantation ethics /2 hours/**. History of experimentation with human beings – Cleopatra pregnancy experiments, Nazi experiments and Dr. Josef Mengele, Tuskegee Syphilis Study. **Interactive learning:** 3-minutes movie and discussion “Mengele’s Human Experimentation on twins”. Historical development of ethical standards for human experimentation: Nuremberg Code, Declaration of Helsinki, Belmont Report. Ethics review and ethics committees. Physician as a researcher. Use of placebo. Post-trial arrangements. Publication ethics. **Transplantation ethics** – definitions, medical, economical, social and ethical problems. Black market. Age and generational relations in organ donation. **Interactive learning:** 5-minutes movie and discussion “Exposing the black market for human organs”. Ethical issues of xenotransplantation, cord-blood banking, neurotransplantation, therapeutic cloning. WMA Statement on Organ and Tissue Donation.


7. **Justice in health care. Public health ethics. /2 hours/**. Levels of resource allocation. Right to health as a human right and WHO statements in Declaration of Alma Ata. Waiting list – positive and negative effects. Possible ways of resource allocation – WHO strategies on macro-level of resource allocation; Egalitarian, Libertarian and Utilitarian schools of thought; QALY theory; Rationing medical care by age – Daniel Callahan’s contribution into the debate; Responsibility theory. **Public Health Ethics** – definition, principles – harm principle, least confiding measures first, reciprocity, transparency, proportionality, effectiveness. *Case of Cuba and limiting HIV/AIDS*. Ethical issues of: health promotion and prevention strategies; risk reduction and screening programmes; epidemiological studies; pro- and anti-natalists policies; infectious disease control. *Case of limiting Ebola epidemic*.

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8. **Clinical Ethics Consultation. /1 hour/** Definition. Characteristics. Aim. Authoritarian and ethics facilitation approach of CEC. Skills and knowledge of ethical consultant. Models of CEC. Most common reasons to request CEC. Benefits and evaluation of CEC. Moral case deliberation. METAP methodology of CEC and its application to a real case of donor's versus relative's genetic material for IVF.

SEMINARS THESES

1. **Basic concepts of ethics. Codes of conduct. Principles of ethics. /2 hours/.** Medical ethics - definition and importance for medical profession. Ethical codes – overview: The Hippocratic Oath - analysis; basic ethical principles and their validity for contemporary medical practice. Declaration of Geneva – historical background and the emergence of the Nuremberg Code. WMA International Code of Medical Ethics. Basic principles of medical ethics: respect for autonomy, beneficence and non-maleficence, justice - definitions.
Practical work: Individual work on defining the common features in the Hippocratic Oath, Declaration of Geneva and the International Code of Medical Ethics. Discussion of case vignettes.
2. **The concept of confidentiality. Informed consent in medicine. Models of doctor-patient relationships. /2 hours/.** The concept of confidentiality - levels of breach of confidentiality. Informed consent: essence; criteria for valid consent; implicit consent, ethical reasons; consent by proxy and by minors; Models of Doctor-patient relationships – Classical model: Paternalism, Autonomous model, Model of partnership; Emanuel and Emanuel models of doctor – patient relationships. Rights of patients: WMA Declaration on the Rights of Patients (Declaration of Lisbon).
Practical work: Discussion of the concept of confidentiality. Discussion of case vignettes. Discussion of video film.
3. **Ethical aspects of human reproduction. Assisted reproductive technologies. /2 hours/.** Contraception - arguments for and against. Sterilisation. Ethical aspects of abortion. Sex-preselection: ethical arguments for and against. Assisted reproductive technologies: Artificial insemination. In-vitro fertilization. Ethical arguments for and

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against Surrogate motherhood. Declaration of Oslo. Introducing methodology for case analysis.

Practical work: Discussion of World Medical Association Statement on Family Planning and the Right of a Woman to Contraception and Declaration of Oslo. Application of the case analysis methodology to a clinical case.

4. Ethical problems of death and dying. Truth telling. Relief of pain. Hospice care.

Ethical aspects of care of aids patients. /2 hours/. Definition for terminally ill patient. Death – medical and philosophical point of view. Dignity. Ideas/Characteristics of “Good death”. Ethical principles in care of terminally ill patients. Telling the truth - arguments for and against. Stages of psychological reaction according to Kubbler-Ross. How to tell? Relief of pain - ethical issues. Hospice care - definitions, types.

Practical work: Discussion of video film on communication of bad news. Discussion of case vignettes.


5. Euthanasia - definition, active and passive euthanasia. Ethical issues of physician assisted suicide. /2 hours/.

Euthanasia - definition, historical aspects. Types of euthanasia: Voluntary and non-voluntary/involuntary; Active and passive; Active euthanasia - arguments for and against. Assisted suicide and Double effect. Euthanasia and law.

Practical work: Discussion of video film. Discussion of case vignettes.

6. Ethical problems of research and human experimentation. Organ transplantation. /2 hours/.

Ethical aspects of human experimentation: Types of human experimentation – therapeutic and non-therapeutic biomedical research. Necessity of human experimentation and objectives. Main ethical requirements in human experimentation. Ethical problems of human experimentation in particular groups of people. Experiments with human beings in Nazi Germany. Nuremberg code: history, basic principles. Declaration of Helsinki – history, amendments. Ethical questions of tissue and organ transplantation: Types of transplantation. Ethical questions of living organ and tissue donation. Ethical aspects of organ transplantation from cadavers.

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Practical work: Discussion of case vignettes. Discussion of Nuremberg Code. Analysis of Declarations of Helsinki.

7. Moral dilemmas in allocating medical resources. Public health ethics. /2 hours/.

Right to health. Conflict between different groups as regards health care. Principle of justice in medicine. Theories of resource allocation. Rationing health care on the society level. Health policy and ethics: factors that have to be taken into account, scope of the health policy. The common good. Ethical questions of microallocation.

Practical work: Discussion of case vignettes.

8. Clinical ethics consultation. /1 hour/. Application of top-down and bottom-up methods of CEC in case vignettes. Instructions for the final exam. Case analysis feedback.

CONTROL

During the semester

During the semester students get individual assignment on ethical analysis of clinical case and two tests. At seminar 4 students pass test on reproductive ethics. At seminar 7 students pass final training test covering the whole theoretical material in the same format as the test of the final semestrial exam. The threshold to pass both tests successfully is 60% right answers. Students also get bonuses for taking part in oral discussions during the seminars.


The semestrial mark is calculated as average from individual assignment assessment, both tests results and participation bonuses.

SEMESTRIAL EXAM

I. Exam consists of two parts:

1. Test of 26 questions on the whole synopsis
2. Ethical case analysis


II. Assessment criteria:

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1. Assessment of the test is based on a points system. Different points are attributed to the questions according to the level of difficulty. Test's format is trained during the semester.

Question number	Attributed points	Total points
Questions 1 to 3	0.50 each	1,5
Questions 4 to 6	1 point each	3
Questions 7 to 11	1,5 point each	7,5
Questions 12 to 16	1 point each	4
Questions 17 to 19	1 point each	4
Questions 20 to 24	1 point each	5
Question 25 /open-ended question requiring 5 short answers in free style/	0.50 each right answer	2,5
Question 26 /open-ended question requiring 5 short answers in free style/	0.50 each right answer	2,5
Maximum total points		30

Number of points	Mark
18	3.00
19	3.25
20	3.50
21	3.75
22	4.00
23	4.25
24	4.50
25	4.75
26	5.00
27	5.25
28	5.50
29	5.75

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30	6.00
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2. Assessment of the case analysis is based on ethical case analysis score card. The score card will be displayed at the department information board upon the end of the semester. Students are familiar with the assessment criteria and prepare and submit the case analysis during the semester.

3. Final examination mark is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final mark} = (0,30 \times A^*) + (0,60 \times B^*) + (0,10 \times C^*)$$

A - mark on case analysis

B - mark on the examination test

C - average mark of the semester

A, B, and C should be different from Poor (2.00), i.e. A, B, and C should be at least Average (3.00) to proceed to calculation of final mark.


CREDITS

Overall credit for the discipline is 2.5 (87 credit points)

Credit points are collected through:

1. Attendance and participation in seminars
2. Attendance of lectures
3. Individual preparation for seminars
4. Individual preparation for semestrial control
5. Individual essay
6. Individual preparation for final examination

Activities	Points	Credits	%
1. Attendance and participation in	15 x 1= 15	0,4	17%

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seminars			
2. Attendance of lectures	15 x 1 = 15	0,4	17%
3. Preparation for seminars and lectures	7 x 1,0 = 7	0,2	8%
4. Semestrial control and final test	7 x 1,0 + 3 = 10	0,3	12%
5. Individual assignment	10	0,3	12%
6. Preparation for final examination	30	0,9	34%
Total:	87	2.5	100

PLACE OF MEDICAL ETHICS IN THE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medical ethics education is compulsory and is placed in second year, fourth semester of the curriculum of medicine. This is the only philosophical discipline for medical students and it is providing specific knowledge as well as it broadens students' life views. Studying of values, ethical codes and declarations, different ethical methods and theories as well as the existing views towards major current ethical problems contributes to the development of students' moral reasoning and ethical sensitivity.

EXPECTED RESULTS


The main expected result of medical ethics training is mastering of fundamental ethical principles in medical practice and acquiring ability for ethical decision-making in clinical practice.

EXAMINATION SYNOPSIS IN MEDICAL ETHICS 2019/2020 academic year


Specialty "Medicine", Second year students

January 2020 examination session

1. *Introduction to ethics* – definitions, methods, theories.

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2. *Basic principles of bioethics*: respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice.
3. Codes of ethics. *The Hippocratic Oath. The Declaration of Geneva. The International Code of Medical Ethics.*
4. *Confidentiality.*
5. *Models of physician-patient relationships.* Paternalistic model. Autonomous model. Partnership model. Emanuel & Emanuel classification.
6. *Decision-making in medical practice. Shared decision making.*
7. *Informed consent* – definition, arguments in favour and against, criteria of validity, forms.
8. Human rights in patient care. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights. WMA declaration (Declaration of Lisbon).*
9. *Reproductive ethics.* The right to reproduce. Procreative balance and motivation restriction principles. Views on parenthood.
10. *Reproductive ethics.* Ethical aspects of contraception, sterilization.
11. *Reproductive ethics.* Abortion, sex pre-selection.
12. *Reproductive ethics.* Assisted reproductive technologies: artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, surrogate motherhood.
13. *Reproductive ethics.* Social eggs freezing.
14. *Ethics and Genetics.* Genetic tests and genetic consultation. Preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Cloning.
15. *Ethical issues in elderly care.* Care for dementia patients. Socially assistive robots.
16. *Ethical issues at the end of life.* Definition of terminally ill, basic principles applied to terminally ill patients, ethical components of care for terminally ill. Truth telling. Advance directives.
17. *Ethical issues at the end of life.* Relief of pain and suffering. The idea of “good death”. Palliative/hospice care.
18. *Euthanasia* – definitions, arguments in favour and against.
19. *Research ethics. The Nuremberg Code. The Declaration of Helsinki.*
20. *Research ethics.* Problems of research in co-operation with developing countries. Bioethics committees. Publication ethics.
21. *Transplantation ethics. WMA Statement on Organ and Tissue Donation.* Biological solutions of the supply/demand gap and related ethical problems.

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22. *Transplantation ethics*. Societal solutions of the supply/demand gap and related ethical problems. Age and generational relations in organ donation.
23. *Ethical issues in allocation of health care resources*. Philosophical schools of thought considering resource allocation. Possible ways to resource allocation and related ethical considerations. Ageism in health care.
24. *Public health ethics*.
25. *Clinical ethics consultation* – definition, models, reasons to request, requirements to ethics consultants.
26. *Methodology for ethical case analysis*.


REFERENCE MATERIALS:

I. Main reference materials:

1. Aleksandrova-Yankulovska, S. Readings in Bioethics. Publishing centre of Medical University of Pleven, 2016
2. Aleksandrova-Yankulovska, S., Henk ten Have. Ethical decision-making in health care. Publishing Center of Medical University of Pleven, 2014.
3. Lectures 2019
4. Materials in the System for distance learning of MU-Pleven

II. Additional reference materials:

5. Beauchamp T.L., Childress J.F. Principles of biomedical ethics. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
Paper copies available at the library of Medical University-Pleven
6. Singer P.A. The Cambridge textbook of bioethics. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
Paper copies available at the library of Medical University-Pleven
7. Community of Practice. Health Rights. Human Rights in Patient Care. Video Teaching resources.
Free access available in Internet at: <http://cop.health-rights.org/media/200/>

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8. World Medical Association - documents on ethics available through search field.

Free access available in Internet at:

<http://www.wma.net/en/10home/index.html>

9. International Network of the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics. Case book series.

Free download available in Internet at: <http://www.unesco-chair-bioethics.org/UI/F01.aspx>

10. UNESCO Bioethics core curriculum, Section 1 and 2

Free download available in Internet

11. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – articles on all topics available through search field.

Free access available in Internet at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

THE PROGRAMME WAS PREPARED BY

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