



**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**  
**“PROF. PARASKEV STOYANOV, MD” - VARNA**  
**FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE**

*Approved with Protocol of the Faculty Council No. 2705/2016.*



**APPROVED BY:**  
**DEAN**

*/Assoc. Prof. G. Papanchev, DMD, PhD/*

**TUITION PROGRAMME**

**In**

**“SOCIAL MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS”**

**Specialty: “DENTAL MEDICINE”**

**Discipline – Compulsory**

**Educational Degree: “Master”**

**Professional qualification: “DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE”**

| Type of classes          | Semester | Workload hours per week | Workload total      |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Lectures                 | IV       | 2                       | 30                  |
| Seminars                 | IV       | 2                       | 30                  |
| Total hours              | IV       |                         | 60                  |
| Forms of control         |          |                         | Exam<br>IV Semester |
| Credits ( ECTS )         | IV       |                         | 4                   |
| Extracurricular activity | IV       | 2                       | 60                  |

## **Annotation**

The **Social Medicine module** is aimed at introducing the dental students to the main characteristics and modern tendencies in public health as well as to the methods and indicators of its study and assessment. The basic techniques of demographic analysis are presented. Students become familiar with the sources of data available for demographic research, main parameters of statics and dynamics of population movement and comparability across populations. Emphasis is placed on the modern concepts of health and the social determinants of health and disease.

The **Medical Ethics module** reveals the ethical dimensions of decision-making activities in health care practices. The objectives of the course are to present a panoramic view of ethical problems in contemporary medical and public health practice, to sharpen sensitivity to problematic issues in health care and to encourage good judgment and competent problem solving. The course focuses on: ethical principles guiding medical and dental practice and the 'physician-patient relationship'; ethical reasoning in health care; justice in the access to health care and the allocation of scarce resources.

### **Forms of teaching, monitoring and evaluation:**

**I.** Teaching is carried out through lectures and seminars. Illustrative material, work with documents and scientific literature, practical cases are used.

**II.** Assessment and exam

- Assessment in the discipline is carried out through a written test (open and closed questions) for Social Medicine and a written discussion of practical cases for Medical Ethics.

**III.** Formation of a final grade

- The final grade is formed as an arithmetic mean of the grades of the written test (scale and points) and the solution of the case, through correct identification of the ethical problem and a proposal for a practical solution.

## Content of module

### Module 1. Social Medicine

#### Lectures:

| No           | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Academic hours |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.           | Modern concepts of health – definitions, models and dimensions. Determinants of health and disease. Inequalities in health.                                                                                     | 1              |
| 2.           | Medical demography – essence, terminology and indicators. Measuring population change. Sources of demographic data. Demographic transition.                                                                     | 2              |
| 3.           | Population size and growth and population distribution by major characteristics – health aspects and application. Types of age/gender population composition. Population pyramids World trends and projections. | 2              |
| 4.           | Population ageing. Measurement, impacts and trends. International comparison.                                                                                                                                   | 2              |
| 5.           | Natural flow of the population. Fertility and reproduction – measurement, characteristics, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison. Birth registration.                                      | 2              |
| 6.           | Mortality - measurement, characteristic, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison. Death registration, death certificate.                                                                     | 2              |
| 7.           | Infant and maternal mortality - measurement, characteristic, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison.                                                                                        | 2              |
| 8.           | Life expectancy at birth. Definitions, international comparison, trends and impacts. Complex indicators for measuring population health and global burden of disease.                                           | 2              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>15</b>      |

#### Seminars:

| No | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Academic hours |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Determinants of health – main groups and impacts. Social determinants of health. Inequalities in health.                                                                                                  | 2              |
| 2. | Population size and growth – health aspects and application. Trends and comparative analysis. (data interpretation)                                                                                       | 2              |
| 3. | Population distribution by major characteristics – health aspects and application. Types of age/gender population structures. Population pyramids. Trends and comparative analysis. (data interpretation) | 2              |
| 4. | Population ageing – measurement, impacts and trends. Comparative analysis. (data interpretation)                                                                                                          | 2              |
| 5. | Fertility - indicators, data and trends. Birth registration. International comparisons (data interpretation).                                                                                             | 2              |
| 6. | Mortality – indicators, data and trends. Death registration, death certificate. International comparisons (data interpretation).                                                                          | 2              |

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 7.           | Infant and maternal mortality. Life expectancy at birth. Indicators, data and trends. International comparisons (data interpretation). Complex indicators for measuring population health and global burden of disease. | 3         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>15</b> |

## Module 2. Medical Ethics

### Lectures:

| No           | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Academic hours |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.           | Medical ethics as a type of applied ethics. Moral dilemmas and moral argumentation. Modern scientific and technological development in medicine as a source of moral debates.                                              | 2              |
| 2.           | Teleological ethical theories. Utilitarianism – essence and main varieties. Situational ethics. Deontological ethical theories. Strengths and weaknesses. Moral and extra-moral guidelines for behavior.                   | 2              |
| 3.           | Principle of autonomy. Concept of autonomy. Refusal of treatment. Suicide and the autonomy of the person. The medical model dominated by the principle of autonomy.                                                        | 2              |
| 4.           | Informed consent. Justification and functions. Elements of informed consent: provision of information, understanding of information, voluntariness of consent, competence to consent.                                      | 2              |
| 5.           | Principle of non-maleficence and principle of assistance in a biomedical context. Killing and letting die. Paternalism. Classes of authorized persons. Standards and procedures for decision-making by authorized persons. | 2              |
| 6.           | Principle of justice. Macro-level allocation of scarce resources and prioritization of health policy. Micro-level allocation of scarce resources. Right to access limited life-saving drugs.                               | 3              |
| 7.           | Doctor-patient relationship. Rule of veracity. Lying, placebo effect, concealment of truth. Confidentiality rule. Right to privacy.                                                                                        | 2              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>15</b>      |

### Seminars:

| No | Title                                                                                                                                                          | Academic hours |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Informed consent. Classes of authorized individuals. Standards and procedures for decision-making by proxies. Clinical experiments with humans. Ethical cases. | 2              |
| 2. | Doctor-patient relationship in the context of dentistry. Rule of veracity. Lying, placebo effect, concealment of the truth. Ethical cases.                     | 2              |
| 3. | Doctor-patient relationship. Rule of confidentiality in dental practice. Ethical cases.                                                                        | 2              |

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 4.           | Moral and ethical problems in the allocation of limited resources in healthcare. Dental practice and fair distribution of resources. Ethical cases.                                        | 3         |
| 5.           | Refusal of treatment. Decision about death. Euthanasia. Ethical cases.                                                                                                                     | 2         |
| 6.           | Ethical problems of organ donation and transplantation. Ethical cases.                                                                                                                     | 2         |
| 7.           | Moral choices in human reproduction. Contraception, Sterilization, Abortion. Assisted reproduction. In vitro fertilization. Surrogate motherhood. Ethical and legal aspects. Case studies. | 2         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>15</b> |

### **Literature:**

1. Detels, Roger; Beaglehole, Robert; Lansang, Mary Ann; Gulliford, Martin. Oxford Textbook of Public Health. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, 2011.
2. Lectures and materials placed in the Blackboard platform of MU - Varna
3. Steinbock B. The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics. Oxford University Press, 2007.
4. Beauchamp T. L., Chidress J. F., Principles of Biomedical Ethics. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2026.
5. A Guide to Ethical Decision Making. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.
6. Rule, James T. and Veatch, Robert M., Ethical Questions in Dentistry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Quintessence Pub Co; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2004.
7. Kuhse Helga, Singer Peter, A companion to Bioethics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

# **Examination Synopsis**

## **SOCIAL MEDICINE**

1. Social Medicine – as a scientific discipline: subject, fields and methods of study; development and significance.
2. Health and disease as fundamental categories in medicine. Models, dimensions and definitions of health.
3. Determinants of health. Main groups and impact. Social determinants of health. Inequalities in health.
4. Medical demography – essence, terminology and indicators. Measuring population change. Sources of demographic data. Demographic transition.
5. Population size and growth. World trends and projections. Population distribution by major characteristics – health aspects and application. Types of age/gender population composition. Population pyramids.
6. Population ageing – measurement, impacts and trends. International comparison.
7. Migration. Types and modern trends of migration flows. Health impacts of migration.
8. Natural flow of the population. Fertility and reproduction – measurement, characteristics, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison. Birth registration.
9. Mortality - measurement, characteristic, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison. Death registration, death certificate.
10. Infant and maternal mortality - measurement, characteristic, trends and medico-social aspects. International comparison.
11. Life expectancy at birth. Indicators, data and trends. International comparisons. Complex indicators for measuring population health and global burden of disease.

## **MEDICAL ETHICS**

12. Contemporary developments in clinical, research and health care ethics.
13. Moral dilemmas and moral reasoning. Moral and non-moral action guides.
14. Teleological ethical theories. Utilitarianism. Situational ethics. Advantages and limitations.
15. Deontological theories. Kant's "Categorical imperative". Advantages and limitations.
16. The concept of "rights". Human rights in medical context. Positive and negative rights. Patient's rights.
17. The concept of "autonomy" and the principle of "autonomy" in medical context. Autonomy and paternalism. Informed consent and informed refusal of treatment.
18. The concept of "harm". Non-maleficence as an ethical principle guiding medical practice. Commissions and omissions. Malpractice. Standards of "due-care".
19. The principle of beneficence. Utility as balance of costs, risks and benefits. Proxy decision-making.
20. Physician-patient relationship – the rule of veracity and withholding medical information from the patient. Arguments and recommended practices.
21. Physician-patient relationship. Confidentiality and privacy. Justified exceptions from confidentiality and fuzzy areas.
22. Decisions about death. Active and passive euthanasia. Arguments about justifications. Ethical norms and legal practices. The right to palliative care.
23. The principle of justice. Concepts and criteria. Comparative justice and the access to health care. Models in health care. Ethical problems in allocation of scarce resources in the health care system on macro-and micro level.
24. Moral choices in human reproduction. In vitro fertilization. Surrogate motherhood. Ethical and legal aspects.
25. Ethical issues in transplantation medicine.

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