

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Alfarabi Private College



المملكة العربية السعودية  
كلية الفارابي الأهلية



## Medical Ethics and Professionalism

### Course Specifications



**Code:** MEP351

**Title:** Medical Ethics and Professionalism

**Year:** Three

**Level:** Five

**Type of educational unit:** Longitudinal course



Integrated block



**No of credit hours:** 3 (3+0+2)

**Pre-requisites for the course:**

**Course principle coordinator:**

**Course support coordinator:**

**Members of the Coordinating Committee:**

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### **Description**

This course covers the definition and basics of professionalism and the essential elements of the medical profession, including moral and ethical principles and legal responsibilities underlying the profession. This course provides an overview of many ethical issues that arise in the practice of medicine and research. The course will introduce students to the core elements of ethical reasoning around issues such as truth telling, confidentiality, genetic testing, rationing, professional boundaries, conflicts of interest, informed consent for treatment and research and end-of-life care. During the course students will mainly focus on the practical aspects of these issues. Students will learn how to be committed to their patients, profession, and society through ethical practice and professional behavior, including honesty, integrity, leadership, commitment, compassion, respect and altruism. They will be exposed to delivering the highest quality of care and learn how to maintain and develop their competence, appropriately respond to ethical issues encountered in practice, maintain appropriate relations with their patients, colleagues and society and be empathetic to the physical and moral suffering of patients. They will learn giving effective feedback, and working effectively within an interdisciplinary team. Similar methods to those mentioned above of instruction, assessment and evaluation will be used with more emphasis on practice aspects.

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts necessary for an understanding of the ethical basis of medical practice, medical professionalism, and the legal and social frameworks in which



medicine is practiced. This understanding develops in an integrated way as students begin to develop their basic clinical and communication skills. Students begin to learn that some aspects of medical practice are the subject of a strong ethical consensus, while others are matters of considerable debate or even deep social division. Students' learning experiences will challenge them to begin to critically appraise the goals of medical practice and their own values. They will also be introduced to the idea that medicine is both an academic enterprise and a social practice, such that success requires the demonstration of basic and applied scientific and clinical knowledge, clinical competence, and satisfactory professional conduct. The course will be delivered using a combination of the PBL tutorials, lectures and symposia (often involving outside experts), web-based resources and readings

### Objectives

	<b>NQF Learning Domains And Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Course Teaching Strategies</b>	<b>Course Assessment Methods</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>		
1.1	Understand and adhere to Islamic professionalism and ethical principles of clinical practice. (SaudiMEDS-14.2)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.2	Define professional values which include excellence, altruism, responsibility, compassion, empathy, accountability, honesty and integrity, and a commitment to scientific methods	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.3	Describe the dimensions of professional self-regulation and express the need for continuous self-improvement admitting personal limitations including limitations of one's medical knowledge;	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.4	Define and describe contemporary medical ethics and the main ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.5	Describe the theories and principles that govern ethical decision making and of the major ethical dilemmas in medicine, particularly those that arise at the beginning and end of life and those that arise from the rapid expansion of knowledge of genetics	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.6	Describe the essential elements of the medical profession, including moral and ethical principles and legal responsibilities underlying the profession;	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.7	Describe the circumstances under which the breaking of confidentiality can and should occur.	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
1.8	Describe and apply in practice the principles of patient consent including relation of capacity,	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations



	competence, and respect for autonomy, criteria for consent to be valid and legal, criteria for ordinate refusal of consent, implied consent, age of legal capacity, advance directives and statements and consent for research.		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Cognitive Skills</b>		
2.1	Demonstrate the importance of psychosocial, spiritual, religious, and cultural factors in patient management. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.2	Demonstrate reflection and learning from errors.(SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.3	Recognize the roles of various healthcare professionals involved in patient care and collaborate with them (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.4	Recognize and advocate the rationale and importance of teamwork.(SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.5	Demonstrate the ability to deal with patients who have difficult circumstances. (SaudiMEDS- 10.2)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.6	Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve inter-professional team conflicts. (SaudiMEDS- 11.4)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.7	Recognize threats to medical professionalism posed by conflict of interest. (SaudiMEDS- 13.3)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.8	Apply the theories and principles that govern ethical decision making to the major ethical dilemmas in medicine (beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, probity, justice). (SaudiMEDS- 14.1)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.9	Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.10	Demonstrate appropriate leadership and management skills. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.11	Demonstrate the ability to manage one's own time and balance between professional and personal responsibilities. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.12	Recognize various roles of medical professional as a practitioner, an educator, and a scientist. (SaudiMEDS- 15.1)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.13	Recognize ethical and governance issues involved in medical research.(SaudiMEDS- 16.1)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.14	Explain the need for respect of colleagues and other healthcare professionals and the positive collaborative relationship with them	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.15	Explain the ways and means of planning effectively and managing efficiently one's own	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations



	time and activities to cope with uncertainty, adapt to change; and take personal responsibility for the care of individual patients.		
2.16	Deal with the aftermath of errors, in both doctors and patients. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
2.17	Explain the threats to medical professionalism posed by the conflicts of interest inherent in various financial and organizational arrangements for the practice of medicine	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Interpersonal Skills &amp; Responsibility</b>		
3.1	Make decisions in partnership with patients and/or their careers. (SaudiMEDS-6.7)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.2	Advocate access to healthcare for members of traditionally underserved populations (rural communities, people with disabilities, minorities and others). (SaudiMEDS-8.3)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.3	Place the patient's interests above one's own. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.4	Uphold honesty, respect and integrity in all interactions with patients, families and colleagues. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.5	Respect patient and physician confidentiality, and be aware of the legal, ethical and medical issues surrounding patient's documentation. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.6	Be accountable at all times with special emphasis on awareness of one's own limitations. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
3.7	Express the moral obligation to provide end-of-life care, including palliation of symptoms; recognition of ethical and medical issues in patient documentation, plagiarism, confidentiality and ownership of intellectual property;	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Communication, Information Technology, Numerical</b>		
4.1	Cope adaptively and seek appropriate help for stresses, illness and problems likely to occur during medical training and practice. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
4.2	Adhere to health institutes' rules and regulations and the principles of quality focus practice. (SaudiMEDS)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
4.3	Report any concurrent physical, social or mental ailment that would affect patient care to appropriate authorities. (SaudiMEDS-7.6)	Lectures & tutorials	Written examinations
4.4	Use appropriate approaches for establishing	Lectures &	Written examinations



	trust with, and showing respect for, patients and colleagues	tutorials	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Psychomotor</b>		

### Content

Topics to be covered in this block:

1. Ethical principles that governs medical practice and the basic philosophy
2. Principles of Professionalism
3. Ethics of confidentiality and privacy
4. Ethical issues and Islamic approach
5. Patient rights and physician responsibilities
6. Doctor-patient relationship
7. Research ethics, scientific misconduct and reporting
8. Ethical issues in treating children
9. End of life care, issues and risk benefit analysis
10. Ethical aspects of genetics
11. Medical errors
12. Truth telling ethics
13. Dealing with industrial companies
14. Resource Allocation Ethics
15. Clinical Ethics
16. Professional healthcare
17. Self-regulation
18. Commitment to lifelong learning & continuing professional development
19. Health advocacy

### Learning strategy

The block will utilize the student-centeredness, integration and the PBL approaches to maximize correlation, learning and retention of the learned knowledge, skills and attitudes. Lectures will be of the interactive type and as few as possible. Certain materials will be studied through practical sessions and some of the important issue related to medical ethics and professionalism will be learned through clinical scenarios.

Hours	Lecture	Tutorial (PBL)	Tutorial (non-PBL)	Seminars	Practical session	Other	Total
Contact	2x14		0x0	1x14	0x0		42
Credit	2		0	1	0		3

Week One		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L1	Introduction to the course
Lecture 2	L2	Introduction to professionalism
Seminar 1	S1	Introduction to seminars



<b>Week Two</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L3	Ethical principles that govern medical practice and the basic philosophy
Lecture 2	L4	The principle of beneficence
Seminar 1	S2	Conflict of interest

<b>Week Three</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L5	Non-maleficence
Lecture 2	L6	Malpractice
Seminar 1	S3	Medical errors

<b>Week Four</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L7	Patient autonomy
Lecture 2	L8	The right to privacy
Seminar 1	S4	Medical information, is it a right or a privilege

<b>Week Five</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L9	The right to confidentiality
Lecture 2	L10	The right to self-determination
Seminar 1	S5	The role of families in medical decisions

<b>Week Six</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L11	Advance Care Planning & Advance directives
Lecture 2	L12	Probity (Honesty & transparency)
Seminar 1	S6	Boundaries of the Doctor patient relationship

<b>Week Seven</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L13	Beginning of life issues
Lecture 2	L14	End of life issues
Seminar 1	S7	Euthanasia

<b>Week eight</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L15	Revision
Lecture 2	L16	Revision
Seminar 1	S8	Midterm Examination



<b>Week Nine</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L17	The ethical principle of justice
Lecture 2	L18	Resource allocation
Seminar 1	S9	How to deal with medical representatives

<b>Week Ten</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L19	Research ethics
Lecture 2	L20	Informed consent and protection of human subjects
Seminar 1	S10	Hippocratic Oath & Declarations

<b>Week Eleven</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L21	Scientific misconduct and forgery
Lecture 2	L22	Ethics Committees and Consultation
Seminar 1	S11	Conflict of interest in research

<b>Week Twelve</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L23	Professional healthcare
Lecture 2	L24	Self-regulation
Seminar 1	S12	Case-based seminar: Case 1

<b>Week Thirteen</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L25	Health advocacy
Lecture 2	L26	Self-care and continuing professional development
Seminar 1	S13	Case-based seminar: Case 2

<b>Week Fourteen</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L27	Case-based seminar: Case 3
Lecture 2	L28	Case-based seminar: Case 4
Seminar 1	S 14	Case-based seminar: Case 5

<b>Week Fifteen</b>		
Type of activity	Code	Title of activity
Lecture 1	L 29	Case-based seminar: Case 6
Lecture 2	L 30	Revision
Seminar 1	S 15	Revision





### Assessment strategy

Assessment of students will employ a battery of assessment tools that are fit-for-purpose and reliable. Knowledge will be assessed through MCQ-type written exam and computer-based spotter exam. These will be conducted at the middle of the block & at its end. In addition to the mid-block written exam, continuous assessment will be done through the evaluation of performance in PBL sessions and through assignments.

Schedule of assessment tasks for students during the course			
	Assessment task	Week Due	% of Total Assessment
1	Midterm Exam	8 <sup>th</sup> week	30
2	Continuous assessment	5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> week	20
3	Final Written Exam	15 <sup>th</sup> week	50

### Recommended reading

1. McIlwraith & Madden. Health Care & the Law. 5th ed. Thomson. 2009.
2. Skene. Law & Medical Practice (3rd ed). Butterworths. 2008.
3. Kliever LD, ed. *Dax's Case. Essays in Medical Ethics and Human Meaning*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press; 1989.
4. Beauchamp TL, Childress JF. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press; 2001.
5. Lo B. *Resolving Ethical Dilemmas. A Guide for Clinicians*. 3rd ed. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005.
6. *Journal of Medical Ethics*. BMJ Publishing Group, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square London WC1H 9JR, U.K.
7. Post S, ed: *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan Reference; 2003.
8. Walters L, Kahn TJ, eds. *Bibliography of Bioethics*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University. Published annually.

ج	المراجع الأساسية /References	المؤلف /Authors
1	أخلاقيات مهنة الطب	دليل إرشادي للممارسين الصحيين صادر عن الهيئة السعودية للتخصصات الطبية. ٢٠٠٣
2	الطبيب أدبه وفقهه	د. زهير السباعي - د. محمد علي البار - دار القلم دمشق - الدار الشامية - بيروت.
3	المسئولية الطبية	د. حسان شمسي باشا. دار القلم
4	خلق الطبيب المسلم	د. زهير السباعي - دار ابن القيم - الدمام.
5	الفقه الطبي	الجمعية العلمية السعودية للدراسات الفقهية - ١٤٣٦ -

### Recommended electronic resources

1. *Hastings Center Report*. The Hastings Center, Garrison, NY, 10524-5555. E-mail: [mail@thehastingscenter.org](mailto:mail@thehastingscenter.org).
2. *Journal of Clinical Ethics*. 17100 Cole Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740. [www.clinicalethics.com](http://www.clinicalethics.com).
3. *American Journal of Bioethics*. Taylor and Francis Group Inc. [www.bioethics.net](http://www.bioethics.net)
4. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*. 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211. [www.journals.cup.org](http://www.journals.cup.org).
5. <http://www.bioethics.com/>
6. <https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-bioethics-georgetownx-phlx101-02x>
7. <http://bioethics.nih.gov/courses/index.shtml>