



Medical Psychology

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2025/2026
Department	Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Field of study	English Dentistry Division
Main scientific discipline	Medical sciences
Study Profile	General academic
Level of studies	Uniform MSc
Form of studies	Full time studies
Type of module / course	Obligatory
Form of verification of learning outcomes	Completion
Educational Unit / Educational Units	Studium Psychologii Zdrowia [Department of Health Psychology] ul. Litewska 14/16, 00-575 Warszawa, Tel. +48 22 116 92 11 e-mail: zpikm@wum.edu.pl
Head of Educational Unit / Heads of Educational Units	Professor Dorota Włodarczyk, MA, PhD
Course coordinator	Dr n. o zdr. Magdalena Łazarewicz magdalena.lazarewicz@wum.edu.pl
Person responsible for syllabus	Magdalena Łazarewicz, MA, PhD magdalena.lazarewicz@wum.edu.pl
Teachers	Magdalena Łazarewicz, MA, PhD magdalena.lazarewicz@wum.edu.pl

2. BASIC INFORMATION

Year and semester of studies	III year, 5 th semester	Number of ECTS credits	1.50
FORMS OF CLASSES			

Contacting hours with academic teacher	Number of hours	ECTS credits calculation
Lecture (L)		
Seminar (S)	3	0.10
Classes (C)	12	0.40
e-learning (e-L)		
Practical classes (PC)		
Work placement (WP)		
Unassisted student's work		
Preparation for classes and completions	30	1.00

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES	
O1	Acquiring knowledge and skills in the field of psychological aspects of collecting medical history.
O2	Familiarizing with principles / protocol of communicating with patients in the dental office, including psychosocial factors.
O3	Acquiring knowledge and skills in building a good relationship with the patient. Understanding why good communication is an important element of the therapeutic process.
O4	Gaining knowledge and developing skills in non-verbal and verbal communication (greeting the patient, showing respect, gestures, body posture, listening, asking questions, paraphrase, clarification, summary of language, patient language, conversation about the patient's expectations, information transfer, etc.).
O5	Preparing for interviewing the patient, talking about the patient's expectations, motivating for behaviour change, providing information and treatment planning.

4. STANDARDS OF LEARNING – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS OF LEARNING	
Code and number of the effect of learning in accordance with standards of learning	Effects in the field of:
Knowledge – Graduate* knows and understands:	
D.W4.	the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication in the process of communicating with the patient and the concept of trust in interaction with the patient
G.W38.	forensic aspects of human ethology
Skills– Graduate* is able to:	

D.U1.	consider the patient's subjective needs and expectations resulting from socio-cultural conditions in the process of therapeutic treatment
D.U2.	see and respond to the signs of anti-health and self-destructive behavior
D.U3.	choose a treatment that minimizes the social consequences for the patient
D.U4.	build an atmosphere of trust during the entire diagnostic and treatment process
D.U5.	take actions to improve the patient's quality of life and prevent its deterioration in the future
D.U6.	conduct a conversation with an adult patient, child and family using the technique of active listening and expressing empathy
D.U8.	use basic psychological motivating and supportive interventions
D.U12.	respect patient's rights

* In appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019 „graduate”, not student is mentioned.

5. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING (non-compulsory)	
Number of effect of learning	Effects in the fields of:
Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:	
K1	-
Skills– Graduate is able to:	
S1	apply basic assertive techniques in communication with the patient
S2	apply basic nonpharmacological techniques of working with dental anxiety
Social Competencies – Graduate is ready for:	
SC1	-

6. CLASSES		
Form of class	Class contents	Effects of Learning
Seminar	S1 – Seminar 1 – The principles of good doctor-patient communication Discussing the principles of communication and building patient dentist relations. Conducting a conversation with the patient taking into account psychosocial factors. Expressing Empathy. Calgary-Cambridge and EMPATIA protocol. Introduction to psycho-medical diagnosis and diagnosis - the scope of psychometric diagnosis, physician-patient relationship.	D.W4., G.W38., D.U1., D.U6.
Classes	D1-D2 – Discussion 1 and 2 - Basic skills of conducting an interview Verbal and non-verbal communication. Coping with emotions. Showing empathy. Communicating information about health. Establishing a	G.W38., D.U1., D.U3., D.U4., D.U6., D.U8.

	treatment plan and acquiring informed consent. Medical errors and treatment failures.	
	D3-D4 – Discussion 3 and 4 - Role playing: basic communication skills and conducting a medical interview. Role playing exercises and other communication tasks related to such topics as: establishing contact with the patient, initial interview, working with the patient with anxiety, discussing recommendations, assertiveness, working with the patient guardian of a pediatric patient. Patient's health education and motivation to change health behaviors. Recognition of own resources and deficits in the field of communication.	D.U1., D.U2., D.U3., D.U4., D.U5., D.U6., D.U8., D.U12., S1., S2.

7. LITERATURE

Obligatory

PDF materials provided by the teacher during the course.

Supplementary

1. Cole, S., Bird, J. & Weiner, J.S.(2014). *Medical Interview*. Elsevier.
2. Silverman, J., Kurtz, S, Draper J (2008) *Skills for Communicating with Patients*. Radcliffe Publishing.
3. Mostofsky D. I. & Fortune F. (2013). *Behavioral Dentistry*, 2nd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
4. Ayer W. Jr (2005). *Psychology and Dentistry: Mental Health Aspects of Patient Care*. Routledge.
5. Bochner S. (2011). *The Psychology of the Dentist-Patient Relationship (Contributions to Psychology and Medicine)*. Springer.
6. Sugnani S.O (2011). *Developmental Child Psychology- Implications in paediatric dentistry*. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

The above textbooks are available for short rental from the Department of Health Psychology library (single copies).

8. VERIFYING THE EFFECT OF LEARNING

Code of the course effect of learning	Ways of verifying the effect of learning	Completion criterion
D.W4., G.W38., D.U1., D.U6.	Short test from the seminar (max. 10p)	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test - 10 questions with one positive answer out of four proposed. Passing grade: ≥ 60% (6 points out of 10)
D.W4., G.W38., D.U1.- D.U6., D.U8., D.U12., S1., S2.	Monitoring student active participation in classes (max. 10p) Participation in the role-playing exercises (max. 35p) Essay regarding the role-played scenario (critical analysis of own medical communication skills) (max. 10p).	Achieving the expected learning outcomes at the level of at least 60% (point evaluation)
		The final grade reflects the sum of point collected in the tasks specified above, as follows: 0-35p – failed 42-47p – satisfactory (3) 42-47p – rather good (3+) 48-53p – good (4) 54-59p – more than good (4+) 60-65p – very good (5)

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Participation in the seminar and discussions is mandatory. The attendance list is verified.
2. Coming late for class is generally not tolerated. Being late for over 15 minutes counts as an absence. Recurring shorter late coming is a basis for additional work: an essay, a report or passing the material with a teacher (depending on missed material).
3. The MCQ test takes place during the first practical class (second meeting). Students have the right to one retake. In case of not passing the retake (result < 60%) students receive 0 points from the test for the calculation of their final grade.
4. The Department of Health Psychology runs the Psychological Students Science Club "Psyche" (in English) (contact information: magdalena.lazarewicz@wum.edu.pl).
5. Department's webpage: <http://zpkw.wum.edu.pl/>

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ATTENTION

The final 10 minutes of the last class of the block/semester/year should be allotted for students to fill out the Survey of Evaluation of Classes and Academic Teachers