

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE UNIT FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES
AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

Scientific Area/eas, Field/ds of Science	Medical and Health Sciences (M 000): Public Health (M 004)			
Faculty, Institute, Department/Clinic	Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Health Sciences Department of Public Health			
Course unit title (ECTS credits, hours)	Health Economics and Law 5 credits (135 hours)			
Study method	Lectures	Seminars	Consultations	Self-study
Number of ECTS credits	-	-	2	3
Method of the assessment (in 10 point system)	Five-question oral examination			
PURPOSE OF THE COURSE UNIT				
<p>To be able to analyse the development of the Lithuanian health sector from a legal and economic perspective, focusing on the arguments of sound economic evaluations, the application of health economics concepts and methods, the main aspects of health systems financing, and the interpretation and application of the provisions of health law, to identify problems in health law, and to grasp the essence of these problems.</p>				
THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE COURSE UNIT				
<p>The social and economic context of health. The characteristics and difficulties confronting the Lithuanian economy in an international setting. Index of Human Development. Economic and demographic forecasts.</p> <p>The fundamentals of health economics. Economic principles critical to the health sector. The market and the state roles in the healthcare. Approaches to the market and a lack of competition. An approach to health based on social capital. The health market versus the conventional market. Government intervention in the health care market. Prioritization, efficiency, access, equity, and fairness in health care resources and delivery. Economic growth and health.</p> <p>A typology of health systems based on their financing. Fundamental principles and frameworks for performance evaluation. Strategies to increase financial protection and fairness in health care; to incentivize higher standards of quality, accessibility, transparency, and accountability. Mechanisms and models of financing. Principal functions of financing: revenue collection, including the (dis)advantages of various revenue collection mechanisms; the importance of pooling; decision-making on coverage and cost reimbursement; territorial resource allocation; purchasing concepts and frameworks; payment methods for providers; and provider incentives and resiliency. Revenues and expenditures of Lithuania's social and health insurance systems. International health expenditure comparisons.</p> <p>Types and methods of economic evaluation in the healthcare. Costs, benefits, and their quantified ratios. Making decisions on capital investments. Frameworks and scope for health technology assessment.</p> <p>Measuring costs, benefits and their ratios. Making capital investments decisions. Health technology assessment: frameworks and scope.</p> <p>Challenges in transferability of evidences. Evidences on efficiency of health prevention. Evaluation criteria, questions and methods. Challenges in evaluation of public health programs.</p>				

Market for pharmaceuticals: features, regulation, conjunction with health care market. Costing, pricing and payments/reimbursements for pharmaceuticals. Digitalization in health care. E-health strategies, challenges and evidences. Big data in health.

Legal fundamentals: public and private law. There are two types of law: substantive law and procedural law. Law of torts. Subjects, scope, and origins of health-related legislation.

Health law's constitutional principles. Legislative basis for the health care system. Health care management and regulation. Medical activities and professions are regulated. Licensing. Legal responsibilities in the health care sector. Regulation of malpractice. The function of forensic medicine.

Patients' rights and responsibilities. Protection of personal data. Medical research regulation. Euthanasia, death, and legislation. Regulation of interactions between medical personnel and patients, as well as between various medical professionals. Case-law. Minors' legal standing. Incapacity. Liability in civil law.

Administration of health care facilities. Commercial firms and philanthropic organizations. Collaboration between the public and private sectors. Service costing and pricing. Financial planning's fundamentals and role. Compensation for employees. Contractual relationships with payers. Enhancement of the quality. Marketing.

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE SOURCES

1. Bhattacharya, J., Hyde, T., Tu, P. (2014) Health economics. Palgrave MacMillan.
2. <https://www.pdfdrive.com/the-oxford-handbook-of-health-economics-e162889553.html>
3. Philips, C. J. (2008) Health economics: An Introduction for Health professionals.
4. http://irhea.ir/files/site1/health_economics___an_introduction_for_health_professionals.pdf
5. Thompson, S., Foubister, T., Mossialos, E. (2009). Financing health care in the European Union. Challenges and policy responses. World Health Organization, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/326415>
6. Papanicolas, I., Smith, P. (ed.) (2013). Health system performance comparison. Introduction. https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/244836/Health-System-Performance-Comparison.pdf
7. Merkur, S., Sassi, F., McDaid, D. (2013). Promoting Health, Preventing Disease: is there an Economic Case? World Health Organisation. https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/235966/e96956.pdf
8. Global expenditure on health: public spending on the rise? Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
9. OECD: Health at a Glance (2018, 2019, 2020) <https://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/>
10. Health economics information resources: A self-study course. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/edu/healthecon/index.html>

CONSULTING LECTURERS

1. Coordinating lecturer: Liubove Murauskiene (Prof. Dr.).
2. Daiva Brogiene (Lect. Dr.).

APPROVED:

By Council of Doctoral School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Vilnius University: 29th of September 2022

Chairperson of the Board: Prof. Janina Tutkuvienė