

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

<b>Scientific Area/eas, Field/ds of Science</b>	Medical and Health Sciences (M 000): Medicine (M 001)			
<b>Faculty, Institute, Department/Clinic</b>	Faculty of Medicine Institute of Biomedical Sciences Department of Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology			
<b>Course unit title</b> (ECTS credits, hours)	<b>Legal Knowledge and Deontology in Forensic Medicine Practice</b> 9 credits (240 hours)			
<b>Study method</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Seminars</b>	<b>Consultations</b>	<b>Self-study</b>
Number of ECTS credits	-	-	2	7
<b>Method of the assessment</b> (in 10 point system)	<p><u>Presentation</u>: the presentation is prepared on a related topic, which is supervised by the coordinating lecturers (the doctoral student must analyse, review and present the latest scientific publications related to the agreed topic).</p> <p><u>Criteria for evaluating the report</u> (minimum score - 5):</p> <p>(a) relevance, novelty and topicality of the presented material (2 points);</p> <p>(b) the general structure and scope of the notification, a clear presentation of the knowledge, argumentation, conciseness and specificity (2 points);</p> <p>(c) summary, presentation and justification of conclusions (1 point);</p> <p>d) raising problematic issues, presenting the application of the reviewed knowledge in the dissertation (3 points);</p> <p>e) organization of visual aids, ability to participate in a discussion, management of questions, oratory skills (2 points).</p>			
<b>PURPOSE OF THE COURSE UNIT</b>				
To update the acquired and/or acquire new knowledge in the field of legal regulation of forensic medicine, as well as to develop the ability to use legal knowledge in practice, and to master the basic concepts of ethics and deontology, methodology, peculiarities, evaluation, and criteria of deontological examinations.				
<b>THE MAIN TOPICS OF COURSE UNIT</b>				
<p><u>Legal system of the Republic of Lithuania (RL)</u>: Constitutional provisions on human rights and freedoms. The main features of the Law on Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure and Administrative Proceedings.</p> <p><u>Courts, law enforcement institutions, defence and representation in court</u>: the judicial system of the RL, the composition and competence of courts. Prosecution system and functions. Pre-trial investigation. Procedural rights and obligations of the defender and the representative.</p> <p><u>Regulation of expertise in the laws of the RL and other legal acts</u>: The concept of evidence. Assignment of experts and expertise in criminal proceedings, civil proceedings, administrative and administrative offense proceedings. Procedures and peculiarities of granting additional, repeated, new expertise, complex and commission expertise. Rights and duties of an expert, responsibility. Expertise institutions. Appointment of a specialist, rights, obligations. Grounds and procedure for removal of an expert. Expert testimony at the court</p>				

hearing. Procedure for payment of expenses for the performance of an expert examination.

Legal status of forensic experts of the RL according to the Law on Forensic Examination and other legal acts: Entities performing forensic examinations. Requirements for persons seeking to become forensic experts. Procedure for awarding the qualification of a forensic expert. Addition and removal from the list of forensic experts of the RL. Private forensic expert status. The concept of special knowledge, the conditions and procedure for its use in forensic examinations.

Examination report, its content according to the laws of the RL and other legal acts: Form and content of the examination report. Evaluation of the expert report.

Principles of Forensic Experts, Liability for Violations of the Code of Professional Ethics of Forensic Experts and Examination of Complaints: Principles of Forensic Experts. Liability for violations of the Code of Professional Ethics for Forensic Experts. Examination of complaints regarding violations of the Code of Professional Ethics of Forensic Experts.

Deontological ethics. Introduction to ethics. The concept of morality. Moral behaviour, its levels and development. Moral sovereignty. Ethics as a science, the connection with other social sciences. An overview of the history of ethical thought. Assumptions in the history of philosophical ethics. A change in the concept of public life and morality. Christian ethics. The social essence of morality. Regulatory function of morality. Origin and preconditions of morality. Evolutionary Ethics (H. Spenser). The formation of morality. The morality of primitive society. Moral choice. Moral freedom. Determinants of choice. Moral evaluation and values. Humanity. Humanism. General categories of self - evaluation. Attachment. Duty. Empirical motivation to justify ethics. Justification and motivation of transcendental ethics. Critique of Hedonism (I. Kant). The Hippocratic Oath as a deontological text. The problem of patient awareness. Practical benefits of deontological examinations. Principles of formulation of conclusions.

Medical ethics. System and history of medical ethics. Medical ethics from a philosophical point of view. Application of morality in practice. Philosophical substantiation of moral behaviour in medicine (A. Schopenhauer). Interfaces between ethics, psychology, sociology, law in medicine. Physician, patients, and social groups ethics. A distinctive feature of ethics and medical ethics. Ethical structure of medicine. Levels of ethical medical structure. Problems emerging in the context of the relationship between medicine and society. Problems forming in the plane of the relationship between the doctor's personality and the general theory of ethics.

Physician ethics - a part of medical ethics. Doctor's standard and professionalism. Personality traits of a doctor. Moral attitudes that determine the specialty of the medical profession. Doctor-patient, doctor-patient's relatives relationships. Physician relationships with co-workers and colleagues. The doctor's place in shaping public opinion. Moral responsibility and legal liability of the doctor. Basic Principles of Medical Practitioners (Geneva Declaration). Additional rule of medical ethics. Conditions for the mandatory information principle. Causes of patient ignorance.

Bioethics. The latest biomedical technologies. Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. Ethics and medical research. The problem of "defensive medicine" developed as a result of legal acts.

### **RECOMMENDED LITERATURE SOURCES**

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 1992, Nr.33-1014) \*.
2. Republic of Lithuania Law on the Rights of Patients and compensation of the Damage to their Health (Žin., 1996, Nr. 102-2317) \*.

3. The law on the registration of death of a human being, and on critical conditions of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 1996, Nr. 30-712) \*.
4. Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 1999, Nr. 13-30813; 2000, Nr. 85-2566) \*.
5. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 2000, Nr. 89-2741) \*.
6. The Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 2000, Nr. 74-2262) \*.
7. Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 2002, Nr. 37-1341)\*.
8. Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 2002, Nr. 36-1340) \*.
9. The law on forensic expertise of the Republic of Lithuania (Žin., 2002, Nr. 112-4969) \*.
10. Sveikatos apsaugos ministro, Teisingumo ministro ir Socialinės apsaugos ir darbo ministro 2003 m. gegužės 23 d. įsakymas Nr. V-298/158/A-86 „Dėl sveikatos sutrikdymo masto nustatymo taisyklių patvirtinimo“ (Žin., 2003, Nr. 52-2357)) \*.
11. Lietuvos Respublikos teisingumo ministro 2003 m. balandžio 18 d. įsakymas Nr. 112 „Dėl teisinių žinių programos asmenims, siekiantiems tapti teismo ekspertais patvirtinimo“ (Žin., 2003, Nr. 39-1797) \*.
12. LR vyriausybės 2006 m. gegužės 12 d. nutarimas Nr. 452 „Dėl transporto priemonės vairuojančių ir kitų asmenų neblaivumo (girtumo) ar apsvaigimo nustatymo taisyklių patvirtinimo“ (Žin., 2006, Nr. 56-2000; TAR 2016-05-25, i. k. 2016-13952) \*.
13. Teismo ekspertų profesinės etikos kodeksas, patvirtintas Teismo ekspertų veiklos koordinavimo tarybos 2014 m. vasario 24 d. sprendimu Nr. B-16 „Dėl Teismo ekspertų profesinės etikos kodekso patvirtinimo“ (TAR, 2014-03-10, Nr. 2954) \*.
14. Teismo ekspertų veiklos koordinavimo tarybos darbo reglamentas, patvirtintas teisingumo ministro 2014 m. kovo 4 d. įsakymu Nr. 1R-54 „Dėl Teismo ekspertų veiklos koordinavimo tarybos darbo reglamento patvirtinimo“ (TAR, 2014-03-05, Nr. 2704) \*.
15. Court practice. Online access:  
<http://liteko.teismai.lt/viesasprendimupaieska/detalipaieska.aspx?detali=2>
16. Širinskienė A., Narbekovas A. Medicinos etika. Vilnius, MRU. 2007 m
17. MacIntyre A. Trumpa etikos istorija. Dorovės filosofijos istorija nuo Homero iki dvidešimto amžiaus. Vilnius, 2014 m.
18. Shafer-Landau, R. Ethical theory. Wiley-Blackwell, JK, 2013 m.

\* The actual versions of legal acts.

### **CONSULTING LECTURERS**

1. Coordinating lecturer: Jurgita Stasiūnienė (Assoc. Prof. Dr.)

#### **APPROVED:**

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

Chairperson of the Board: Prof. Janina Tutkuviene