

**SYLLABUS OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT  
HUMANITY AND EMPATHY IN CLINICAL MEDICAL PRACTICE**

Speciality: **221 “Dentistry”**

Educational and professional program: **“Dentistry”**

Component code in the educational program: **EC 67**

Higher education level: **second** (master’s degree)

Form of education: **full-time**

Year of study: **5**

Semester(s): **IX (autumn) or X (spring)**

Type of educational component: **elective**

Academic year: **2028-2029**

Volume: **3 credits ECTS (90 hours)**

Training sessions: **practical classes, consultations, self-study**

Final control: **credit**

Prerequisites: **MC 9, 10, 25, 28, 38**

Department/Unit: **department of Ukrainian language, psychology and pedagogy**; 4 Nauky Ave, Main Building, 5th floor

**Department of Infectious Diseases, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and Phthisiology**, Municipal Non-Commercial Enterprise of the Kharkiv Regional Council “Regional Children’s Infectious Clinical Hospital,” 160 Byron Avenue,

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Course Page in the Moodle Distance Learning System of Kharkiv National Medical University:

<https://distance.knmu.edu.ua/enrol/index.php?id=5015>

**DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT**

In the contemporary world, the importance of psychological competencies and communication approaches in interactions between the physician and the patient (as well as accompanying persons) is steadily increasing. These approaches take into account individual characteristics and subjective perceptions of the treatment process, and contribute to improving the quality of healthcare delivery. Future physicians must understand the specific features of doctor–patient interaction in the context of ongoing reform and modernization of the healthcare system in Ukraine, as well as the significance of soft skills for the development of professional competence and expertise.

**PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:** to ensure the professional competence of future physicians by familiarizing them with the psychological patterns underlying patients’ and accompanying persons’ responses to the treatment process, the psychological requirements for the physician’s personality, and by developing skills for effective professional and interpersonal interaction with colleagues and patients based on empathy and mutual respect.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The course aims to develop in higher education students:

- ☞ a patient-centered attitude;
- ☞ the ability to build doctor–patient relationships grounded in mutual respect, mutual understanding, and recognition of the patient’s right to participate in decision-making;
- ☞ the ability to demonstrate empathy and compassion, and to provide initial.

**CONTENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT**

**List of topics of lecture (10 hours):**

1. Introductory lecture. Core concepts of the course. Foundations of the patient-centered approach in clinical medical practice.

2. Doctor–patient relationships. Delivering bad news, difficult conversations, and conflict management.
3. Educational psychology as a scientific discipline. The role of educational psychology in various fields.
4. Professional psychology as a scientific discipline. The role of professional psychology in various fields.

**List of topics of practical (20 hours):**

1. Empathy. The concept of the patient-centered approach: components and evolution. Principles and foundations of medical communication.
2. Patient autonomy and professional boundaries in relationships. Case study analysis.
3. Tolerance and diversity. Ensuring equity in healthcare.
4. Conflicts and difficult conversations. Facilitation of conflict situations.
5. Verbal and non-verbal communication in clinical practice.
6. Crisis emotional states. Confidentiality. Principles of providing psychological first aid.

**List of topics of independent work of the student (60 hours)**

1. Empathy: philosophical and legal foundations of its development.
2. Paternalistic and patient-centered approaches.
3. Consultation as a space for building partnership-based relationships.
4. Core models of conducting a consultation.
5. Communicative culture in healthcare services.
6. Patient education: objectives, methods, and expectations.
7. Patient agency.
8. Confidentiality: concept and legal framework.
9. “Cultural sensitivity” in medical communication.
10. Stigmatization in contemporary society. Health-related stigma.
11. The role of empathy in fostering patient compliance and treatment outcomes.
12. Prevention of stigmatization and dehumanization through empathy.

The IWS is aimed at deepening and consolidating the theoretical knowledge gained during classroom training and contributing to the formation of professional competencies. The results of the IWS are subject to control and are included in the final control of knowledge.

**Consultations:** online, upon prior registration on the course page in the Learning Management System.

**Teaching methods:** lecture; problem-based learning; interactive communication training; flash simulations; case method; creative writing and storytelling; system of training exercises and creative tasks; narration.

## EVALUATION

**Current Learning Activities (CLA).** The assessment of students’ progress is carried out in accordance with the Instruction on the Assessment of Learning Activities of Students at Kharkiv National Medical University (KhNMU). Grades for practical or final classes range from 2 to 5 points. Late submission of assignments without a valid reason results in a proportional reduction of the grade according to the percentage of delay relative to the task completion time. Assignments are checked within 24 hours, and grades are entered into the electronic gradebook. Unsatisfactory grades are retaken in accordance with the Regulation on the Procedure for Retaking Classes by Students of KhNMU.

At the end of the semester, the average grade for formative assessment is converted into a multi-point score (120–200 points) according to Table 2 of the above-mentioned Instruction. The arithmetic mean of formative assessments for the semester constitutes the overall learning activity score (OLS).

**Individual tasks (IT)** are evaluated up to 10 points.

**Final control.** The prerequisite for admission to the final test is obtaining **at least 120 points of OLS.**

**Grade in subject (GS).** **GS = OLS**

**Appealing the results of the final control** is carried out in accordance with the procedure established in KhNMU ([https://knmu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/polog\\_apel\\_kontrol.pdf](https://knmu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/polog_apel_kontrol.pdf)).

### **POLICIES OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT**

**Recommendations for working on the course:** actively participate in all types of classroom activities; devote **1–2 hours daily** to self-directed learning and class preparation; ask questions during sessions; attend consultations; submit assignments on time; and complete all forms of assessment.

**Attending classes.** Attendance at lectures and practical classes is mandatory. Students arriving more than 5 minutes late may not be admitted to class. Missed classes must be retaken according to the *Regulation on the Procedure for Retaking Classes by Students of KhNMU*

**Academic integrity.** KhNMU stands on the positions of zero tolerance to manifestations of academic dishonesty. Any violations of the principles of academic integrity entail responsibility in accordance with the procedure established by KhNMU ([https://knmu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/polog\\_ad-1.pdf](https://knmu.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/polog_ad-1.pdf)).

**Use of electronic gadgets and artificial intelligence tools.** The use of electronic gadgets and artificial intelligence tools is permitted only with the instructor's approval.

**Policy on persons with special educational needs.** Students with special educational needs should contact the instructor to develop an individual learning trajectory.

**Teacher Response Time:** 24 hours.

#### **Technical requirements for the course:**

- access to a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone
- Corporate Google account with your own photo
- skills in working with Google Workspace (Google Meet, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms) and Moodle
- *other requirements of the department*

**Technical support:** ASM (ev.shevtsov@knmu.edu.ua), Google (tehotdelknmu@gmail.com), Moodle (al.korol@knmu.edu.ua)

### **RECOMMENDED SOURCES**

1. McCorry, L. K., & Mason, J. (2020). Communication skills for the healthcare professional. JONES & BARTLETT PUB Incorporated.
2. Методичні рекомендації щодо дотримання принципів гідності пацієнтів в лікарнях. ГО «PH Capital. Public Health Experts», 2021. URL: [https://phcapital.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/metodychni-rekomendacziyi\\_proyekt.pdf](https://phcapital.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/metodychni-rekomendacziyi_proyekt.pdf)
3. Центри передового досвіду первинної медичної допомоги. Посібник. Проект USAID «Підтримка реформи охорони здоров'я». Київ, 2020. URL: [http://healthreform.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/COEs-manual\\_for-PHC-web.pdf](http://healthreform.in.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/COEs-manual_for-PHC-web.pdf).
4. Анастасія Леухіна. Зовсім не страшна книга. Про життя, смерть і все, що поміж ними. – Київ: Дух і Літера, 2020. – 368 с.

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