



Medical Psychology

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2026/2027
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 hab. n. o zdr. Dorota Włodarczyk dorota.wlodarczyk@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	1.00
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	15	.50

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.W3.	forms of violence, including domestic violence, social determinants of different forms of violence, and the role of a dental surgeon in its recognition, as well as the principles of conduct in the event of suspecting violence, taking into account the “Blue Card” procedure;
D.W5.	the concept of empathy and the phrases and behaviours used to express it;
D.W7.	the specifics and importance of verbal (conscious construction of messages) and non-verbal (e.g., facial expressions, gestures, management of silence and space) communication;

D.W9.	the principles of motivating the patient to maintain healthy lifestyle and behave in a manner conducive to maintaining health;
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Skills– Graduate* is able to:

D.U3.	use open and closed questions, paraphrasing, clarification, internal and final summaries, signalling, active listening (e.g. capturing and recognising the interlocutor's signals, verbal, and non-verbal techniques) and facilitation (encouraging the interlocutor to speak), as appropriate;
D.U4.	adapt verbal communication to meet the patient's needs, expressing themselves clearly and avoiding medical jargon;
D.U5.	recognise and analyse difficult situations and communication challenges, including crying, strong emotions, anxiety, interruptions, awkward and sensitive issues, silence, withdrawal, aggressive and demanding behaviour, and deal with these in a constructive manner;
D.U6.	establish a relationship with the patient and their family to build appropriate rapport;
D.U7.	view the situation from the patient's perspective, building an appropriate conversational context and using the elicitation method, and incorporate this in the construction of verbal messages;
D.U9.	describe and critically evaluate their own behaviour and communication, considering the possibility of alternative behaviour;

5. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING *(non-compulsory)*

Number of effect of learning	Effects in the fields of:
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Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:

K1	-
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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	-
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6. CLASSES

Form of class	Class contents	Effects of Learning
Seminar	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.W5., D.W7., D.U3., D.U4.
Classes	C1-C2 – Basic skills of conducting an interview Verbal and non-verbal communication. Coping with emotions. Showing	D.W5., D.W7., D.W9., D.U3., D.U4., D.U7.

	empathy. Communicating information about health. Establishing a treatment plan and acquiring informed consent. Medical errors and treatment failures.	
	C3-C4 – 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.W3., D.W5., D.W7., D.W9., D.U3., D.U4., D.U5., D.U6., D.U7., D.U9., U1., U2.

7. LITERATURE

Obligatory

1. Popa-Velea i in. (2025). *Empathy Manual – Pocket Edition*. Bucharest. Access: <https://erudite-project.eu/empathy-manual/>
2. 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.W5., D.W7., D.U3., D.U4.	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.W3., D.W5., D.W7., D.W9., D.U3., D.U4., D.U5., D.U6., D.U7., D.U9., U1., U2.	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)
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9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The course "Medical Psychology" in the second and third years of study is delivered by the Department of Health Psychology of the Medical University of Warsaw.
2. Attendance at seminars and practical classes is compulsory. The attendance list is verified. A justified (excused) absence may be made up by preparing a written assignment/task on a topic agreed with the instructor.
3. 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).
4. To justify absence from classes and assessments, students are required to notify the class instructor and the course coordinator by email or in writing no later than within three working days after the day on which the class, assessment, examination, or practical training took place. Later submission of justification is permitted if the student was unable to provide it earlier for justified reasons; in such a case, the document should be submitted as soon as the reason for the absence no longer applies.
5. The MCQ test takes place during the first practical class, in the second week of the course. Students participating in the classes have the right to make two attempts to retake the test. If the student does not pass the test on the second retake date, they have the right to take a committee assessment before the head of the unit.
6. If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade in the course, they have the right to two resit assessment dates. In the case of the second resit assessment date, the student may request that the Dean allow an observer indicated by the student government to participate in the assessment. The Dean may consent to a committee assessment if justified reservations are raised regarding the course of the assessment.
7. The Department of Health Psychology runs the Psychological Students Science Club "Psyche" (in English) (contact information: magdalena.lazarewicz@wum.edu.pl).
8. 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