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EDUCATIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT OF TEACHING PUBLIC HEALTH FOR FUTURE MASTERS OF MEDICINE

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Introduction. Increasing the impact on the health of the population of a number of adverse factors, the intensification of old and the emergence of new challenges and threats necessitates the search for effective approaches to maintaining and strengthening population health. This is particularly evident in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, population aging, non-communicable disease epidemics and resource scarcity. Complicating matters is the fact that the vast majority of health determinants are beyond the control of the health sector. It is possible to influence them only under the condition of integrated management from various involved sectors, including state, non-state, private, civil, etc. This approach is used in the public health system, the progressive development of which requires the formation of the necessary human resources. There is an urgent need to train a modern cohort of health professionals, both medical and non-medical, who can work together to address the complex challenges of public health in reducing ill health and achieving well-being. This determines the relevance of the substantiation and development of educational support for the process of teaching public health in medical universities.

Aim. To substantiate and develop educational and methodological support for teaching public health in institutions of higher medical education in Ukraine.

Materials and methods. The analytical, bibliosemantic, sociological and medico-statistical methods are used. Research materials: strategic documents on public health and education at the international and national levels; European Program of Key Competences of Public Health Professionals, ASPHER; Criteria of the Agency for Accreditation of Public Health Education, APHEA; educational programs for the preparation of masters of public health at leading European universities, the results of a sociological survey of managers and teachers of specialized departments of higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

Results and discussion. The implementation of a research program to study strategic documents on public health and education at the international and national levels has identified promising approaches to solving problems in the field of public health.

The study of the population health of the population of Ukraine and its comparison with the indicators in the countries of the WHO European Region identified priority problems and outlined the directions of the necessary interventions.

The analysis of the scientific literature revealed the features and trends of training masters of public health and masters of medicine on public health issues in universities in Europe and the world, helped to identify problematic issues of the educational process.

The study of the European Program of Key Competences of Public Health Professionals, ASPHER and Criteria of the Agency for Accreditation of Public Health Education, APHEA, made it possible to determine the health professionals list of requirements for knowledge, skills and competencies in public health sphere. The medical workforce is required to be aware of public health theory and practice, health promotion strategies, to develop and implement prevention programs, and to form stakeholder coalitions, including from other industries, local communities, government, and business and more.

Conducting a sociological survey of heads and teachers of specialized departments of higher educational institutions of Ukraine helped to substantiate the program for training masters of medicine on public health issues, which is called

"Social Medicine, Public Health". This program is approved and recommended for implementation in higher education institutions of Ukraine. Structurally, the discipline "Social Medicine, Public Health" consists of four modules, "Biostatistics", "Public Health", "Health Care Organization" and "Health Economics". It covers the whole range of diverse issues that health professionals deal with in the course of their professional activities.

According to this program, educational methodological support for teaching public health issues in medical universities was substantiated and developed. A number of textbooks have been prepared, namely "Biostatistics", "Public Health", "Health Organization" and others.

The study of social medicine and public health begins with biostatistics as a methodological basis for the analysis and assessment of the health of the population and the health care system. The textbook "Biostatistics" presents the methodological foundations of biostatistical research, the methodology of sociological research, methods of descriptive and analytical statistics. The epidemiological methods of studying diseases, issues of diagnostics and analysis of the results of epidemiological studies, errors and methods for their minimization are comprehensively characterized. Special attention is paid to the basic concepts and principles of evidence-based medicine, the quality of scientific research as a prerequisite for the reliability of evidence, data sources of evidence-based medicine. The textbook discloses informational and software for statistical research in healthcare, principles and forms of presentation of the results of research medical and statistical projects. The modern organization of the medical and statistical service of Ukraine is presented in the context of the general directions of healthcare reform and the introduction of the e-health system.

Mastering the methodological tools of biostatistical analysis forms the basis for further study of the public health system. For this purpose, the textbook "Public Health" was substantiated and developed with the participation of leading scientists from various medical universities of Ukraine.

The objectives of the public health training course provide for the assimilation

of the conceptual foundations of public health, patterns of formation of population health; principles for the development of measures to preserve and improve the health of the population; the institutional structure, activities, functions and services of the public health system; principles for the development of management decisions.

The first part of the textbook, entitled "The Sphere of Public Health", is devoted to coverage of general issues in the field of public health; specific public health functions and services are described in the second part. The first section covers the definition, principles and problems of public health; the boundaries of specialization of the public health system and the health care system; historical stages of the formation of public health systems, etc.

The next step is to consider the models and concepts of population health and leading determinants and risk factors for health; levels and aspects of health, morbidity, disability, burden of disease; methods of their study and assessment. The reasons and extent of health inequalities are revealed, the main behavioral and biological risk factors are analyzed.

The textbook describes the full range of problems of non-communicable and infectious diseases, injuries, including cardiovascular, oncological, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diseases controlled by immunoprophylaxis. The current public health problems related to new viral diseases of epidemic and pandemic nature, first of all COVID-19, are considered; as well as mental, dental health and violence issues.

The section "Public Health Policy, Law and Ethics" reveals the essence of strategies, mechanisms and directions of action in the field of public health; an overview of policies and strategies is presented; health in the context of human rights, ethical principles and issues; approaches to setting public health priorities; leadership as a necessary component of activity; experience of international cooperation.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of public health, educational content is represented by basic social and other sciences, primarily demography, sociology, psychology, economics, management. A separate section is devoted to the informatization of public health, highlighting new opportunities and new problems.

The second part of the textbook analyzes the needs of certain groups of the population in public health services; the structure of the public health system, the peculiarities of its financial and personnel support, the organization of provision service activities.

Separate sections are devoted to the basic public health functions, including epidemiological surveillance and assessment of the health and well-being of the population; monitoring and responding to health hazards; ensuring the protection of public health; health promotion and reducing health inequalities; diseases prevention.

The complex functions of public health are described, first of all, information and explanatory activity (advocacy), communication and social mobilization for health; assuring governance for health and well-being. The final section provides a look at the future of the public health system.

Conclusions. Substantiated and developed educational and methodological support for teaching public health in higher medical education will allow students to acquire the necessary competencies, understand the essence and importance of science and practice of public health, be able and advancing the organization of the essential public health functions and provision services, set priorities, form strategies, etc.