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COVERAGE OF MORAL, ETHICAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS OF HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN THE STUDYING OF SOCIAL MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Tetiana S. Gruzieva, Nataliia V. Hrechyshkina, Ivan M. Soroka, Nataliia M. Mykytenko

BOGOMOLETS NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, KYIV, UKRAINE

Introduction: Health professionals' work is closely related to solving numerous problems, both medical and non-medical in nature. Of great importance is forming an ethical and legal worldview and knowledge and skills in future Master of Medicine to solve specific problems in health care and the public health system from an ethical and deontological position based on legal norms.

The aim: Substantiation of the structure and purport (essence) of educational content on ethical-deontological and medico-legal health care issues in an educational course on social medicine and public health.

Materials and methods: The research methodology is based on the use of bibliographic and information-analytical methods and content analysis. We analyzed national educational standards governing the requirements for the preparation of Master of Medicine, recommendations of international organizations in health and medical education, including WHO, WHO / Europe, European Association of Schools of Public Health, Agency for Accreditation of Public Health Education, World Federation for Medical Education, Association of Medical School in Europe, etc.

Results: Based on the analysis of domestic regulatory and international and European recommendatory documents, the goals and objectives of training masters in ethical-deontological and medical-legal issues related to the public health system were determined. The purpose of training future masters was determined to form their social responsibility for professional activities in the health care system and the public health system in compliance with ethical and deontological norms and principles.

Study assignments included the assimilation of knowledge about the principles and rules of ethics; ethical issues in public health and medicine; the analysis of the main legislative and regulatory acts on these issues; as well as the acquisition of skills to solve ethical problems in public health based on ethical standards; on the justification for the adoption of appropriate decisions.

The educational content covers the essence of the concepts of "ethics", "morality", "bioethics", their principles, and rules. Particular attention is focused on the differences between medical ethics and public health ethics. The emphasis is on clarifying ethical and moral dilemmas in implementing medical practice and practice in the public health system. The program provides for the consideration of numerous activities in the public health system, the implementation of which may cause problems of a moral, ethical, or legal nature. This applies to vaccination issues, quarantine, contact tracing for sexually transmitted infections, placement in specialized institutions in connection with mental health problems, abortion rights, and the use of contraception, and others.

Given the collective nature of public health actions, they can, to a certain extent, limit the rights and freedoms of individuals. Thus, vaccination, which ensures the right of individual protection of each person against diseases controlled using immunoprophylaxis, and achieving the maximum population effect for society, may contradict the right to refuse vaccination, creates a potential threat to society's interests. The need for preventive measures aimed at protecting public health from the spread of HIV/AIDS may conflict with the protection of the rights of an AIDS patient or HIV-infected person, respect for his autonomy, mandatory registration of an infection case, voluntary consent to testing, epidemiological investigation, notification of partners and others.

These and other cases require healthcare professionals to comprehend the conflict of moral interests, the ability to build trusting relationships with civil society, deliver truthful and accessible information to consumers of services, conduct an open dialogue, awareness of responsibility and accountability to society. In the event of contradictions between common values and the rights or interests of an individual, it is important to consider the principles of social justice, democratic participation, creating benefits for a larger number of people, analyzing benefits and risks, political context, etc. Students are offered an analysis of possible contradictions and approaches to their solution in considering typical examples of clarifying such problems.

Conclusions: The educational content presented in the educational course on social medicine and public health on ethical-deontological and medical-legal issues of health care forms for future masters the competence component of solving the moral, ethical, and legal problems of interventions in the field of public health from the standpoint of respecting the rights of each individual and society in general, solving the conflict of interests of an individual and a group of people based on the provisions of the current legislation and taking into account bioethical principles.

KEY WORDS: medical ethics, public health ethics, ethical contradictions, legal problems, educational course.