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FEATURES AND EMPHASIS OF TEACHING FORENSIC MEDICINE FOR STUDENTS OF THE PEP "PAEDIATRICS"

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Abstract. This article addresses current issues in teaching the academic discipline "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law" to students of the professional educational program (PEP) "Pediatrics." With a focus on violence against children, the authors emphasize the necessity of educating pediatric students on forensic principles and practical skills. The article highlights the harmonization with international standards, the importance of awareness among students, and the critical role forensic medicine plays in pediatric training. Forensic medicine, as a discipline encompassing diverse medical fields, plays a crucial role in pediatrics. This article explores the integration of forensic principles into the PEP "Pediatrics," emphasizing the increasing societal issue of violence against children. The importance of training pediatric students to recognize and respond to such incidents while maintaining a solid evidence base is paramount.

The authors emphasize that teaching forensic medicine to pediatric students should prioritize the following directions:

1. Expert Involvement in Forensic Medical Examinations: Focuses on the significance of forensic medical examinations related to medical errors and offenses. Article 69 of the Criminal Procedure Code allows pediatricians to act as experts, emphasizing equivalence in rights and responsibilities with forensic medical experts.

2. Physician Participation in Urgent Investigative Actions: Emphasizes the importance of practical skills, such as examining a corpse at the scene. Article 238 of the Criminal Procedure Code permits pediatricians to participate in urgent investigative actions. This includes instructing students on organizational and legal aspects, as well as theoretical and practical principles of examining a corpse at the scene.

3. Accurate Documentation of Physical Injuries: Stresses the essential skill of accurately describing physical injuries on a child's body. Acknowledges the role of pediatricians in initial injury documentation, considering the potential involvement in criminal investigations.

4. Accuracy and Completeness of Medical Documentation: Underscores the critical nature of accurate and complete medical documentation, serving as evidence in criminal proceedings. The article discusses potential legal consequences for physicians due to improper maintenance.

5. Recording Sexual Offenses Against Children: Introduces an elective course focusing on preventing sexual offenses against children and domestic violence. Aims to form theoretical and practical competencies in students, adhering to the "Istanbul Protocol" and emphasizing the role of pediatricians in recognizing and responding to sexual violence against children.

Therefore, educating pediatric students on how to act in such cases, how to work with patients without compromising the evidence base, and simultaneously providing timely medical assistance becomes paramount. This ensures the preparation of a highly qualified specialist in pediatrics whose competencies align with their professional qualification characteristics.

Conclusion.

1. Harmonizing domestic legislation with EU norms and standards as part of Ukraine's integration into the EU creates priority directions in teaching the discipline "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law."

2. Insufficient awareness among pediatric students and a casual attitude towards the consequences of unprofessional actions or inaction in future professional activities contribute to a lack of motivation for studying "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law."

3. Teaching forensic medicine is a crucial part of pediatric training. By providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and respond to cases of violence against children, we can help protect children and ensure they receive the necessary assistance.

Keywords: Forensic Medicine, Medical Law, Pediatrics, higher education students, examination of the corpse at the scene, description of bodily injuries, violence against children, Istanbul Convention, medical documentation.

Introduction. Forensic medicine is a discipline that requires knowledge from a wide range of medical fields and directions, including pediatrics. Forensic

medical expertise is a practical activity based on clinical and medical-biological knowledge, with its main goal being the implementation of expert activities. This involves

investigating specific objects to support the activities of law enforcement and justice authorities.

The primary task of forensic medicine as an academic discipline in the educational-professional program (PEP) "Pediatrics" is for students to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills in determining signs of human death, identifying and describing injuries, especially those caused by improper medical care, examining a corpse at the scene, and detecting and collecting traces of biological origin. Another contemporary challenge is the socially negative phenomenon of violence against children within families, which is gaining momentum and requires focused attention from pediatricians and family doctors, as they may be the first to suspect this phenomenon. Therefore, educating pediatric students on how to act in such cases, how to work with patients without compromising the evidence base, and simultaneously providing timely medical assistance becomes a priority. This ensures the preparation of a highly qualified specialist in the field of pediatrics, whose competencies align with their professional qualification characteristics.

It is worth noting that in 2022, Ukraine ratified the Istanbul Convention, which aims to prevent violence against women and children and combat manifestations of this socially negative phenomenon. The Convention seeks to protect victims of violence and punish the guilty. Under its jurisdiction, besides women and children, men and the elderly are also covered. The Convention advocates that violence against women and children, domestic violence, is not considered a private or family matter, and the state must prevent violence, protect victims, and criminally prosecute those who commit it. Therefore, teaching students in the PEP "Pediatrics" how to recognize instances of domestic violence against children, identify and document bodily injuries in children, as well as signs of neglect and improper care, and signs of sexual violence, is justified and relevant.

As the saying goes, "Forewarned is forearmed," so during the study of the discipline "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law," we strive to draw the attention of pediatric students to certain features of this discipline, providing them with theoretical and practical competencies with the aim of preparing a high-quality specialist. In practical activities, the competencies of a pediatrician may closely intertwine with forensic medical expertise.

Ensuring Comprehensive Training for Pediatric Specialists:

1. Expert Involvement in Forensic Medical Examinations: According to Article 69 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, any physician, including a pediatrician, may be engaged as an expert in commission forensic medical examinations. In cases related to medical errors and legal violations, it is common to involve a specialist pediatrician to ensure completeness and objectivity in the expert's conclusions. During these examinations, the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the physician expert are equivalent to those of a forensic medical expert. Additionally, the specialist physician may later be invited to participate in police investigations, prosecution, and court hearings for testimony and clarification of expert findings. Therefore, teaching the discipline "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law" emphasizes procedural-legal principles of forensic medicine and relevant laws regulating expert and medical activities.

2. Physician Participation in Urgent Investigative Actions: As per Article 238 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, any physician, including a pediatrician, can participate as a specialist in urgent investigative actions, such as examining a corpse at the scene. In practical terms, a pediatrician may encounter situations involving a patient's death. In such cases, the pediatrician must document the time and circumstances of death, relying on the presence and degree of post-mortem phenomena. Therefore, teaching forensic medicine pays significant attention to forensic thanatology and imparts practical skills to students, such as examining a corpse at the scene. This includes instructing students on the organizational and legal aspects of this action (understanding the rights, duties, and tasks of a specialist physician during the examination of a corpse at the scene) and the practical component, involving the theoretical and practical principles of examining a corpse at the scene, emphasizing the preservation of the examination process, documenting post-mortem changes, and describing bodily injuries if present, establishing a correlation with the cause of death.

3. Accurate Documentation of Physical Injuries: An essential practical skill is the accurate description of physical injuries on a child's body, specifying the clear localization, type of injury, dimensions, and the stage of healing at the time of medical assistance. Since a child may seek qualified medical care after sustaining an injury, and later, in case of a criminal investigation, be examined by a forensic expert, the initial description of physical injuries by a pediatrician plays a crucial role. Some injuries may heal without a trace over time, while others may change characteristics, such as the edges of a wound due to surgical intervention. Therefore, the study of the algorithm for describing physical injuries and the completeness of their documentation in medical records is of paramount importance.

4. Accuracy and Completeness of Medical Documentation: The accuracy and completeness of medical documentation are critical. The saying, "The doctor writes the medical history for the prosecutor," underscores the serious nature of this aspect. Medical documentation serves as evidence in criminal proceedings, and improper maintenance, whether intentional or unintentional, may lead to legal consequences for the physician.

5. Recording Sexual Offenses Against Children: The department has developed an elective course, "Prevention of Sexual Offenses Against Children and Domestic Violence" The main goal is to form theoretical and practical competencies in students, based on multidisciplinary knowledge of principles, stages, methods of documenting physical injuries, rules for sample collection, material preservation, interpretation of expert results, and the study of procedural legal norms based on the "Istanbul Protocol." Considering that a pediatrician may be the first to suspect sexual violence against a child, teaching students the algorithm of actions in such cases is crucial. Preserving the evidence base is vital in the investigation of such crimes.

Training in forensic medicine is a vital part of pediatric preparation. By providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to recognize and respond to cases of violence against children, we can help protect children and ensure they receive the necessary assistance,

thus promoting the dissemination of European legal norms and standards in Ukraine.

Conclusion.

1. The harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with EU norms and standards creates priority directions in teaching the discipline "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law".

2. Insufficient awareness and casual attitudes of pediatric students toward the consequences of unprofessional actions or inactivity in their future professional activities are reasons for insufficient motivation to study "Forensic Medicine and Medical Law".

3. Teaching forensic medicine is a crucial part of pediatric training, enabling students to recognize and respond to cases of violence against children, ultimately helping protect children and ensuring they receive the necessary assistance.

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ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ТА АКЦЕНТИ ВИКЛАДАННЯ СУДОВОЇ МЕДИЦИНИ ДЛЯ ЗДОБУВАЧІВ ОПІ «ПЕДІАТРІЯ»

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Резюме. У статті розглядаються актуальні питання викладання навчальної дисципліни «Судова медицина та медичне право» здобувачам освітньо-професійної програми (ОПІ) «Педіатрія». Одним із викликів сьогодення є таке соціально негативне явище, як насилля проти дітей у сім'ї, що все більше набирає обертів і потребує зосередженої уваги з боку педіатрів та сімейних лікарів, адже вони можуть бути першими хто запідозрить це явище.

Автори статті відзначають, що навчання судовій медицині студентам-педіатрам має такі пріоритетні напрями: вивчення процесуально-правових засад судової медицини, особливо судово-медичних експертних, пов'язаних із лікарськими помилками та правопорушеннями; оволодіння практичними навичками проведення огляду трупа на місці події; фіксації тілесних ушкоджень на тілі дитини та ведення медичної документації; навчання алгоритму дій у разі виявлення ознак насильства над дитиною. Тому навчання студентів-педіатрів, як діяти у даних випадках, як працювати з пацієнтами, щоб не знищити доказову базу і, водночас, надати вчасну медичну допомогу, стає пріоритетним. Це забезпечить підготовку висококваліфікованого фахівця у галузі педіатрії, компетенції якого відповідають його ОКХ.

Висновок. З огляду на вище викладене, варто відзначити, що:

1. Гармонізація вітчизняного законодавства із нормативними актами та стандартами Європейського Союзу у рамках інтеграції України в ЄС створює пріоритетні напрями у викладанні дисципліни «Судова медицина та медичне право».

2. Недостатня обізнаність студентів-педіатрів і легковажне ставлення до наслідків непрофесійних дій чи бездіяльності у майбутній професійній діяльності, є причиною недостатності мотивації до вивчення дисципліни «Судова медицина та медичне право».

3. Навчання судовій медицині є важливою частиною підготовки педіатрів. Надаючи студентам знання та навички, необхідні для розпізнавання та реагування на випадки насильства над дітьми, ми можемо допомогти захистити дітей і забезпечити їм отримання необхідної допомоги.

Ключові слова: судова медицина, медичне право, педіатрія, здобувачі вищої освіти, огляд трупа на місці події, опис тілесних ушкоджень, насильство над дітьми, Стамбульська конвенція, медична документація.

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