

Teaching clinical skills for students at the Department of Family Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo

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Introduction: Curriculum The integrated study program of Medicine (in Bosnian and English language) covers a total of 5535 hours (360 ECTS). Classes in Family Medicine are held during the XI semester for 120 hours (10 ECTS), divided into 45 hours of lectures, 75 hours of practical exercises (60 hours of exercises and 15 hours of seminars) as well as in the XII semester, 90 hours of rotating classes. In addition to the compulsory course, the Department of Family Medicine has an elective course “Complex patients” lasting 10 hours of lectures and 10 hours of practical exercises.

Aims are to present activities related to teaching skills at the undergraduate program at the Family Medicine Department at Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo.

Method: Analysis plans and programs for the subjects of Family Medicine and Complex Patients and department’s reports.

Results: The syllabus of the family medicine course in the XI semester includes 19 modules with all areas and topics that are significant for family medicine work, as well as the competencies of family medicine as a clinical discipline. Learning and teaching skills for students at the Department of Family Medicine includes skills that a student should be able to practically perform: taking a focused anamnesis, focused examinations of all systems, use of diagnostic medical instruments, measuring blood pressure and pulse, correct interpretation of the ECG, anthropometric measurements, administration of insulin, treatment of acute and chronic wounds; communication skills – clear and precise verbal expression, active listening, non-verbal communication; proper management of medical records, use of information systems, use of validated screening tools, disease diagnosis and disease control assessment. A form of teaching students' skills is also the implementation of the project "Let's take control of diabetes - Students in the family doctor's office", organized in cooperation with the Association of Doctors of Family Medicine and the Association of Students of the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo, in which third, fourth, fifth and sixth year students participate. The project includes education, under the mentorship of members of the department, with thematic units prepared and presented by students, and training in the performance of clinical skills used in the project.

Conclusion: Learning and teaching of skills is an area of education that is of great importance and requires sufficient time, space and human resources in order for the skills to be successfully mastered by students. It is necessary to constantly update clinical skills and introduce new educational goals, depending on the needs of the population, the epidemiological characteristics of the population, new guidelines and the interests of the students themselves.

Key words: family medicine, clinical skills, students, teaching