



## **Module Specification**

### **Medical Law and Practice**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Medical Law and Practice

**Module code:** UJUUBP-15-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2025-26

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**College:** College of Business and Law

**School:** CBL Bristol Law School

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Law Undergraduate (Programmes)

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** The study of medical law is actually the study of several areas of law and ethics that operate in the field of clinical and medical practice and research. We will see interconnected elements of criminal law, human rights law, tort law, public law, and legal and philosophical ethics in our module.

Medical ethics has existed since the origin of the Hippocratic Oath in the fifth century BC (and possibly earlier) and helps us to make decisions concerning the law and

clinical and medical practice by reference to wider, socially accepted norms, principles, and values. Ethics is relevant when we can see more than one justifiable course of action and we need to decide between them. These courses of action could concern birth, life, and death and any form of clinical practice or research, making it a varied field of study and practice. Medical ethics helps practitioners and lawyer to decide on a course of action in situations which can be sensitive and emotive.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** The emphasis throughout will be on providing the student the opportunity and facilities to question, understand, analyse and evaluate the law in its historical, practical, academic and social context.

In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

- Working as a team member in order to present a lecture as a group.
- Ability to engage peers and think on the spot through debate sessions in lectures.

**Outline syllabus:** Two encapsulating perspectives are:

What may and may not be done with a patient, who decides and how.

Medical practice set in the context of pre-birth, life and death.

The course comprises a mix of law, ethics, and critical arguments for reform.

The following is indicative content, not all topics will necessarily be covered and the content may vary over time as current medico-legal issues develop.

1.Bioethics- to include discussions around ethical decision making, scientific research and resourcing in the NHS

2.Capacity- to include consideration of both adult and child patients, consent and best interest decision making

3.Medical negligence- duty of care, breach of duty, causation, damages and defences [will probably need approx. 2-3 sessions to cover this]

4.Confidentiality- the legal basis, breaches and circumstances when confidentiality can be breached

5. Critical perspectives 1- organ donation
6. Critical perspectives 2- abortion
7. Critical perspectives 3- assisted conception and surrogacy
8. Critical perspectives 4- end of life

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The emphasis for this module is to provide students with the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding while also questioning, analysing and evaluating the law and ethics.

The learning context is student-centred and utilises a variety of techniques to encourage independent thought and constructive criticism. Dialogue is promoted between student and lecturer in an inter-active relationship that emphasises the two-way flow of information and criticism.

Scheduled learning includes in-class taught sessions that are based on and build further independent learning such as engagement with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of key aspects of contemporary issues in medical law and ethics.

**MO2** Demonstrate an ability to devise, sustain, and critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts to make judgements, critical arguments or solve problems in medical law or medical ethics.

**MO3** Demonstrate an ability to communicate information, ideas, problems, and solutions in medical law and medical ethics, to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/A742A674-6327-138B-68E3-B1FA9003C861.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/A742A674-6327-138B-68E3-B1FA9003C861.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** The module will be assessed by one written submission (100%) consisting of a legal research memo advising a client. This tests academic rigour, research skills, critical thinking, and writing skills that demonstrate the ability to present complex information to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in an accessible manner.

Students will receive formative instructions on writing a memo, including feedback opportunities, during workshops.

### Assessment tasks:

#### Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written coursework - legal research memo advising a client

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

#### Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written coursework - legal research memo advising a client

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Law [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24