

Learning Outcomes

Core Outcomes

Students should;

- Show competence in identifying and investigating medico-legal cases.
- Demonstrate analytical thinking and evidence based approach in the investigation of medico-legal cases.
- Demonstrate continuing professional development with self-learning ability.
- Function professionally and ethically in an impartial manner
- Demonstrate effective communication skills including oral presentation skills and report writing skills.

Specific learning outcomes for the medico-legal module

At the end of the module students should be able to:

1. Describe the medico-legal framework in the country and identify the medico-legal duties of medical officers working in different capacities.
2. Identify and describe different types of external and internal injuries.
3. Describe the relationship between the mechanism of trauma and the nature and severity of injuries.
4. Identify injury patterns in relation to different circumstances of trauma.
5. Formulate an opinion on the circumstances of trauma based on the injury pattern
6. Describe the pathophysiology and sequelae of injuries in causing disability, disease and death.
7. Analyse the medico-legal significance of injuries for civil and criminal legal purposes
8. Describe and discuss the pathophysiology of trauma and disease in causing death
9. Describe and discuss the changes, which take place in a body after death.
10. Explain the principles used in determining
 1. Time since death
 2. Volitional activity prior to death
 3. Period of survival between trauma or injury and death
11. Recognise the legal principles related to;
 1. Offences committed against the body
 2. Investigation and disposal of the dead
 3. Offences involving intoxicants
 4. Medical ethics
 5. Medical negligence.

Learning Methods of Medico Legal

(A) FIXED LEARNING MODULES (FILM)

A presentation of reading materials, photographs with descriptions, specimens with relevant explanation, reports and discussions on actual crime situations and other medico-legal problems in a display format.

(B) SLIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

A visual presentation of different aspects of medico-legal work.

(C) VIDEO DEMONSTRATION

The routine procedure in performing a post-mortem examination will be demonstrated, via a film.

(D) PROBLEM BASED LEARNING (PBL)

Students will be provided with a real life situation encountered by a medical officer when investigating a suspicious death. During the first session important areas will be identified and basic description is given. Students are required to study the relevant subject matter during the following week and prepare for the discussion in the second session of the PBL. Students will be required to present their approach to solving the problems at this session.

(E) SEMINARS

Contents on sexual offences and child abuse will be provided by seminars which will impart a multi disciplinary approach to the subject. These seminars may either be staff centred or student centred. The entire batch will take part in the discussion. Students are advised to communicate with the tutor assigned for the seminar.

(F) STUDENT DRAMA

A drama enacted around a crime scene investigation and subsequent High Court trial will be staged. This is aimed at strengthening theoretical input you have received regarding the above. The resource persons for the drama will be the students themselves.

(G) LECTURES

One hour lectures will be conducted on selected topics.

(H) HANDOUTS

Due to the scarcity of text books, handouts will be issued on some of the contents.

(1) SELF-STUDY

A medico-legal module library will be made available to students either in the main or departmental library. Self-study is strongly recommended.

Evaluation of the Modules

TITLE	TYPE
Introduction to Forensic Medicine	Lecture
Identification of weapons	Lecture
Types of injuries, identification of weapons	Lecture
Injuries, injury patterns and circumstances	FILM
Changes after death	Lecture
Regional injuries	Lecture
Estimation of time since death	Lecture
Sequelae of injuries	Lecture
Medico-legal aspects of Head Injuries	Lecture
Medico Legal procedures and categorization of injuries	Lecture
Court report in an injured person	CLD
Cause of death according to WHO format	Lecture
Identification of living and dead	Lecture
Changes after death	FILM
Investigation of Scene of Crime	Lecture
Injury pattern in Road Traffic Accidents	Lecture
Clinical examination and reporting of drunkenness	Lecture
Sample collection dispatch and chain of custody	Lecture
Injuries due to Firearms	Lecture
Injuries due to explosives	Lecture
Examination & reporting of victims of torture and deaths in custody	Lecture
Courts system in Sri Lanka and expert witness	Lecture
Asphyxial deaths	Lecture
Investigation of a death due to hanging	Lecture
Sexual offences	Seminar
Scene of Crime and Identification	FILM
Investigation of a body recovered from water	Lecture
Investigation of a mass disaster	Lecture
Infanticide and infant deaths	Lecture
Ethics in relation to Forensic Practice and Medical Negligence	Lecture
Medico Legal aspects of child abuse	Seminar
Electrical injuries and lightning	Lecture
Sudden natural deaths	Lecture
M/L duties & public relations of a doctor investigating a death	Lecture
Injuries due to burns and investigation of a burnt body	Lecture

Medico Legal aspects of abortion	Lecture
Starvation & Neglect and Hyperthermia	Lecture
Investigation of a Maternal death	Lecture
DNA in forensic practice	Lecture

Summary of the Clinical Attachment

* The clinical attachment is a two week appointment at the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. To successfully complete the clinical attachment a students should have performed the the following activities.

- (1) Examine a patient with injuries and present during the ward class
- (2) Eviscerate, dissect and clerk any two autopsies
- (3) Observe and compile a post-mortem report on an accidental, suicidal, homicidal and a natural death
- (4) Observe certain special dissections
- (5) Formulate opinions relevant to the autopsy on a homicidal death

Evaluation

* Students will be evaluated at the end of the clinical appointment under following

- (a) Description of a specimen
- (b) Writing medico-legal opinions
- (c) Knowledge of dissection techniques
- (d) Opinion expressed on reports and photo-graphs of autopsies
- (e) Any other learning inputs during the medico - legal module or the two-week attachment

* The student will be signed up at the end of the appointment on producing the duly completed logbook, attendance register and attending the evaluation.

* Please attempt to complete the MLE forms and MLRs in the first week. This will give you more time to concentrate on your post-mortems.