



Humanitarian Health

Zdrowie w kryzysach humanitarnych

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2026/2027
Department	Faculty of Medicine
Field of study	Medicine
Main scientific discipline	Medical sciences
Study Profile	General academic
Level of studies	Uniform MSc
Form of studies	Full time studies
Type of module / course	Non-compulsory (optional)
Form of verification of learning outcomes	Completion
Educational Unit / Educational Units	Department of Social Medicine and Public Health Medical University of Warsaw Medical Simulation Center Banacha Campus 3a Pawińskiego St., 02-106 Warsaw E-mail: msizp@wum.edu.pl
Head of Educational Unit / Heads of Educational Units	Prof. Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, MD
Course coordinator	Assoc. Prof. Krzysztof Kanecki, MD, PhD krzysztof.kanecki@wum.edu.pl
Person responsible for syllabus	Katarzyna Lewtak, MD, PhD Katarzyna.lewtak@wum.edu.pl
Teachers	Assoc. Prof. Krzysztof Kanecki, MD, PhD Katarzyna Lewtak, MD, PhD

2. BASIC INFORMATION

Year and semester of studies	I-III year, summer, and winter semester	Number of ECTS credits	2.00
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FORMS OF CLASSES	Number of hours	ECTS credits calculation
Contacting hours with academic teacher		
Lecture (L)		
Seminar (S)	30 (e-learning)	1.2
Classes (C)		
e-learning (e-L)		
Practical classes (PC)		
Work placement (WP)		
Unassisted student's work		
Preparation for classes and completions	20	0.8

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

O1	To understand the principles of organization, coordination, and management of humanitarian relief services.
O2	To understand the public health consequences of natural disasters and conflict, and strategies to reduce the health impacts of emergencies.
O3	To develop the ability to assess emergency situations, identify specific health needs of the affected populations, plan and implement interventions to meet these needs, and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of assistance provided.

2. STANDARDS OF LEARNING – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS OF LEARNING

Code and number of the effect of learning in accordance with standards of learning	Effects in the field of: <i>(in accordance with appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 29th of September 2023)</i>
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Knowledge – Graduate* knows and understands:

D.W2	concepts of health and illness, the influence of the social environment (family, work, social relations) and socio-cultural conditions (origin, social status, religion, nationality and ethnic group) on the patient's health;
D.W4	the concept of stress, including eustress and distress, and the impact of stress on the aetiopathogenesis and course of somatic diseases and psychiatric disorders, and mechanisms of coping with stress;
D.W5	social attitudes towards illness, disability and old age and the specific impact of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination;
D.W8	psychosocial consequences of acute and chronic illness in children, including adolescents, and adults;
D.W15	the concept of humanism in medicine and the main concepts, theories and ethical principles that serve as a general framework for properly interpreting and analysing moral-medical issues;

D.W16	patient rights and the concept of patient welfare;
D.W20	the concepts of patient safety and safety culture and their organisational, communication and management aspects.
E.W2	principles for the prevention of childhood diseases, including screening, balance testing and immunisation;
E.W32	principles for dealing with suspicion and detection of an infectious disease;
E.W33	environmental and epidemiological conditions, causes, symptoms, principles of diagnosis and therapeutic and preventive management of the most common infectious diseases and their complications
E.W38	principles of health-seeking behaviour, the basics of prevention and early detection of the most common diseases of civilisation and the principles of screening for these diseases;
G.W1	methods for assessing the health of individuals and populations, measures and principles of monitoring the health of populations, systems of classifying diseases and medical procedures;
G.W2	determinants of diseases, methods of identifying and examining disease risk factors, advantages and disadvantages of epidemiological research and principles of cause-and-effect inference in medicine;
G.W3	epidemiology of infectious diseases, including those related to health care, and non-infectious diseases, types and methods of prevention at various stages of the natural history of the disease, and the role and principles of epidemiological surveillance;
G.W4	the concept and functions of public health, the concept, tasks and methods of health promotion, the concept of quality in health care and factors influencing it, the structure and organization of the health care system at the national and global level, as well as the impact of economic conditions on health care opportunities;
G.W5	legal regulations regarding patients' rights and the Patient Ombudsman, as well as legal regulations relevant to medical activities in the field of labor law, the basics of practicing the medical profession and the functioning of the medical self-government;
G.W6	legal regulations regarding the organization and financing of the health care system, the provision of health services financed from public funds and the principles of organizing healthcare entities, the principles of operation of information and communication tools and services in health care (e-health);

Skills– Graduate* is able to:

B.U8	use medical databases and correctly interpret the information they contain to solve problems in basic and clinical sciences;
D.U1	observe ethical models in professional activities, including planning and carrying out the therapeutic process in accordance with ethical values and the idea of humanism in medicine;
D.U3	respect patients' rights;
D.U7	develop and improve self-awareness, self-reflection and self-care, and reflect with others on their own way of communicating and behaving;
E.U12	identify conditions requiring treatment in a hospital setting;
E.U13	qualify the patient for vaccinations;
E.U21	provide health education to the patient, including nutritional education tailored to individual needs;
E.U27	communicate with patients from groups at risk of economic or social exclusion, respecting their dignity;
E.U28	identify social determinants of health, indicators of anti-health and self-destructive behaviors and discuss them with the patient and make a note in the medical documentation;
G.U1	describe the demographic structure of the population and, on this basis, assess and predict health problems of the population;

G.U2	collect information on the conditions and presence of risk factors for infectious and noncommunicable diseases and plan preventive activities at various levels of prevention;
G.U3	interpret positive and negative measures of health;
G.U4	assess the epidemiological situation of infectious and non-communicable diseases in the Republic of Poland and in the world;
G.U5	explain to people using health services their basic rights and the legal basis for providing these services;

* In appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 29th of September 2023 „graduate”, not student is mentioned.

3. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING (non-compulsory)

Number of effect of learning	Effects in the fields of:
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Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:

K1	the relationships between humanitarian crises and the occurrence of diseases and health-related problems.
K2	public health response systems in humanitarian crises.
K3	humanitarian context and principles for humanitarian assistance

Skills– Graduate is able to:

S1	assess the health needs of different social groups in the context of humanitarian crises.
S2	design public health interventions, including surveillance, vaccination and WASH measures.

Social Competencies – Graduate is ready for:

SC1	understanding and acknowledging the role of national and international institutions in coordinating public health responses.
SC2	intersectoral cooperation and collaborative actions with national and international stakeholders to effectively respond to humanitarian crises.

4. CLASSES

Form of class	Class contents	Effects of Learning
(e-L) seminar 1 asynchronous online course	Health, public health, global health and humanitarian health	D.W2, D.W5, D.W15, D.W16, D.W20, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, D.U1, D.U3, G.U2, G.U4
(e-L) seminar 2 asynchronous online course	Ethical principles, human rights and main legal framework in humanitarian crises	D.W5, D.W15, D.W16, D.W20, G.W5, G.W6, D.U1, D.U3,
(e-L) seminar 3 asynchronous online course	Infectious diseases and humanitarian crises	D.W2, E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U12, E.U13, G.U2, G.U4
(e-L) seminar 4 asynchronous online course	Vaccination in humanitarian emergencies	E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U12, E.U13, G.U2, G.U4

(e-L) seminar 5 asynchronous online course	Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U28, G.U2, G.U4
(e-L) seminar 6 asynchronous online course	Non-communicable diseases in humanitarian settings	D.W2, D.W4, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, E.U12, G.U2, G.U4
(e-L) seminar 7 asynchronous online course	Mental health and psychological first aid	D.W2, D.W4, D.W8, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.U2, G.U4
(e-L) seminar 8 asynchronous online course	Addressing health inequalities in vulnerable populations	D.W2, D.W5, D.W8, D.W15, D.W16, D.W20, E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.W4, G.W5, B.U8, E.U27, E.U28, G.U1, G.U2, G.U3,
(e-L) seminar 9 asynchronous online course	Health challenges and health care in humanitarian emergencies	D.W5, D.W16, D.W20, E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, D.U1, D.U3, E.U12, E.U13, E.U21, G.U2, G.U5
(e-L) seminar 10 asynchronous online course	Emerging themes in humanitarian health	D.W2, D.W4, D.W5, D.W8, D.W15, D.W16, D.W20, E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, B.U8, D.U1, D.U3, D.U7, E.U12, E.U13, E.U21, E.U27, E.U28, G.U1, G.U2, G.U3, G.U4, G.U5

5. LITERATURE

Obligatory

1. Public health in crisis affected populations. A practical guide for decision-makers. <https://odihpn.org/content/uploads/2008/05/networkpaper061.pdf>
2. The Sphere Handbook. <https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-Handbook-2018-EN.pdf>
3. Global Humanitarian Overview 2026. <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2026>

Supplementary

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>
2. Lancet. Health in Humanitarian Crises. <https://www.thelancet.com/series-do/health-in-humanitarian-crises>
3. Informing humanitarians worldwide 24/7. OCHA. <https://reliefweb.int/topics>
4. Médecins Sans Frontières. <https://www.msf.org/>

6. VERIFYING THE EFFECT OF LEARNING

Code of the course effect of learning	Ways of verifying the effect of learning	Completion criterion
D.W2, D.W4, D.W5, D.W8, D.W15, D.W16, D.W20, E.W2, E.W32, E.W33, E.W38, G.W1, G.W2, G.W3, G.W4, G.W5, G.W6, B.U8, D.U1, D.U3, D.U7, E.U12, E.U13, E.U21, E.U27, E.U28, G.U1, G.U2, G.U3, G.U4, G.U5	1. Quizzes, written assignments 2. Test (MCQ)	A minimum score of 70% is required for all quizzes, assignments, and the final test.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information:

- The maximum number of participants per course edition is 500.
- Students have three attempts to obtain credit for the course (in accordance with §§ 26, 27, and 28 of the Study Regulations).
- The course is conducted entirely online via the e-learning platform www.e-learning.wum.edu.pl.

Course Requirements:

- All course deadlines, including those for assignment submission and completion of required learning activities (reviewing course materials and completing quizzes), will be announced in the General Information section on the main page of the e-learning course. Students are responsible for checking this section regularly and meeting all published deadlines.
- Students are required to study all learning materials provided within the course modules on the e-learning platform.
- After each module, students must complete all required quizzes and assignments. Completion of these activities is mandatory for successful course completion.
- All written assignments must be submitted via the e-learning platform and receive a passing evaluation from the course instructor.
- Students must complete all mandatory course requirements, including studying all course materials, successfully completing all required quizzes, and receiving a passing evaluation for all written assignments.
- Eligibility to take the final test is conditional upon the successful completion and positive assessment of all required written assignments.
- The course is considered successfully completed only after the student has fulfilled all mandatory course requirements and passed the final test available on the e-learning platform.
- A course completion certificate may be downloaded only after the final test has been passed and all required assignments have received a passing evaluation. However, a downloaded certificate does not constitute proof of successful course completion unless all course requirements have been fulfilled, including studying all required learning materials, obtaining passing scores on all required quizzes, and receiving passing evaluations for all required written assignments. Only students who meet all course requirements will be awarded course credit and have the course recorded in the official academic grading system.

Guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools

- Within the course, the use of artificial intelligence-based tools is permitted as a means of supporting the learning process.
- AI tools may be used as supportive resources, including for searching and organizing information, analyzing problems, generating a range of possible solutions, and supporting the process of creating and editing texts, while maintaining principles of academic integrity and the Evidence-Based Medicine approach.
- The use of AI tools requires compliance with academic integrity principles, in particular: declaring the use of AI tools in submitted work, maintaining independence in conducting analyses, interpreting results, and formulating conclusions, as well as respecting data protection, information confidentiality, and copyright regulations.
- It is not permitted to: present AI-generated content as one's own original work, use AI-generated responses uncritically as scientific sources of knowledge, or replace the process of reasoning and scientific evaluation with results generated by AI tools.
- The use of AI tools should support the development of analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as decision-making abilities in complex situations, including clinical and healthcare system contexts, rather than replace these skills.

Important Communication Note:

Students are required to regularly check their official MUW email account, as all course-related information is communicated exclusively through the MUW email system.

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ATTENTION

The final 10 minutes of the last class of the block/semester/year should be allotted for students to fill out the Survey of Evaluation of Classes and Academic Teachers