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Editorial Office Address

Department of Forensic Medicine, Third Floor, Library Building, Seth G S Medical College & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-400 012
Email id: mlameditor@gmail.com Phone: 022-24107620 Mobile No. +91-9423016325



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Editorial

Competency based Medical Education Curriculum for Undergraduates- Forensic Medicine Perspectives

Ravindra B Deokar^{a*}, Sachin S Patil^b

^aProfessor (Additional), ^c Associate Professor,

Department of Forensic Medicine, Seth G S Medical college & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-400012.

A new competency based medical education curriculum is being implemented in all medical colleges in India since August 2019 for first year undergraduates' batch. It is an outcome driven medical curriculum conforming global trends aiming to make medical education more outcome-oriented, learner-centric, patient-centric, gender-sensitive and environment appropriate. It aims to create competent, trained healthcare professionals to address the healthcare need of country with changing health needs of society. The competent medical graduate should able to fulfill the societal obligation recognizing the national goal of 'Health for All' and should able to provide preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and holistic care to the needy.¹

It provides competency-based teaching framework for the effective outcome-based strategy involving various domains of teaching including teaching learning methods, assessment based on competencies. The Indian Medical graduate should able to communicate with patients and their relatives adequately, effectively, respectfully, empathetically, sensitively, valuing the rights of patients including confidentiality, privacy, safety, security and should able to build a positive, understanding, humane, ethical, empathetic, and trustworthy relationship with the patients and their families.¹

The new curriculum encourages the integrated teaching in various traditional subjects with special emphasis on problem based learning using clinical or community cases for in depth understanding and resolving the problem.

The course is extended over four and half years with one year of internship. The detailed course & examination schedule is given in **table no. 1.**²

Table no. 1: MBBS course & Examinations schedule²

Phase	Calendar Year (Yr)	Month	Time period (month/s)
Foundation Course	1	August (Yr1)	1
I MBBS	1-2	September (Yr1) to August (Yr2)	12
Exam- I MBBS	2	September (Yr2)	1
II MBBS	2-3	October (Yr2) to August (Yr3)	11
Exam- II MBBS	3	September (Yr3)	1
III MBBS- (Part I)	3-4	October (Yr3) to September (Yr4)	12
Exam- III MBBS (Part I)	4	October (Yr4)	1
Elective & Skills	4	November (Yr4) & December (Yr4)	2
III MBBS- Part II	5	January (Yr5) to December (Yr5)	12
Exam- III MBBS (Part I)	6	January (Yr6)	1
Internship	6-7	March (Yr6) to February (Yr7)	12

Broad competencies for the Indian Medical Graduates is given in section 1 of the volume 1 document.¹ The sub-competencies for each subject organized in tables are given in section 2 with two different parts containing 'core subject outcome' in first part and outcome/competencies which needs alignment with other subjects placed in second part under title 'integration'. Outcomes (competencies) for the given subjects are grouped in topic with number. The expected level of achievement by learner for each subject is identified as – [knows (K), knows how (KH),

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*Corresponding author: Dr Ravindra Deokar, Professor (Additional), Department of Forensic Medicine, Seth G S Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Email: ravideo80@gmail.com Mobile: +91-9423016325.

Table no. 2: Topic-wise outcomes in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology (FMT).

S. No.	Topic Name	Number of competencies	Suggested Teaching Learning method	Suggested assessment method	Vertical Integration (Subject-number of outcomes)
1	General Information	11	Lecture, Small Group Discussion	Written/ Viva voce	
2	Forensic Pathology	35	Lecture, Small Group Discussion, Autopsy, DOAP session, Moot Court, Court visits, Role Play	Written/ Viva voce, OSPE	Human Anatomy- 1, AETCOM-4, Pathology -7, Community Medicine-1, General Medicine-1, Pediatrics-2, General Surgery-2, Anesthesiology-1, Psychiatry-1
3	Clinical Forensic Medicine	33	Lecture, Small group discussion, Bedside clinic, DOAP session	Written/Viva voce/ skill assessment, OSCE, OSPE	Human Anatomy- 1, AETCOM-3, Pathology-1, General Medicine-1, Pediatrics-1, General Surgery-9, Orthopedics-6, Obstetrics & Gynaecology- 16.
4	Medical Jurisprudence (Medical Law and ethics)	30	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/ Viva voce	AETCOM-30, Pharmacology-7
5	Forensic Psychiatry	6	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/ Viva voce	General Medicine-1, Psychiatry-6
6	Forensic Laboratory Investigation in Medical Legal Practice	3	Lecture, Small group discussion, DOAP session	Written/ Viva voce, OSPE	Pathology-1
7	Emerging technologies in Forensic Medicine	1	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/ Viva voce	-
8	Toxicology: General Toxicology	10	Lecture, Small group discussion, Bedside clinic, DOAP session	Written/Viva voce, OSCE/ OSPE	Pharmacology-8, General Medicine-2
9	Toxicology: Chemical Toxicology	6	Lecture, Small group discussion, Bedside clinic, autopsy, DOAP session	Written/Viva voce/ OSCE	Pharmacology-6, General Medicine-6
10	Toxicology: Pharmaceutical Toxicology	1	Lecture, Small group discussion, Bedside clinic, autopsy, DOAP session	Written/Viva voce/ OSCE	Pharmacology-1, General Medicine-1
11	Toxicology: Biotoxicology	1	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/Viva voce	General Medicine-1
12	Toxicology: Sociomedical Toxicology	1	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/Viva voce	General Medicine-1
13	Toxicology: Environmental Toxicology	2	Lecture, Small group discussion	Written/Viva voce	General Medicine-1
14	Skills in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology	22	Bedside clinic (ward/casualty), Small group discussion	Log book/ Skill station/ Skill lab/ Viva voce / OSCE/ OSPE	Physiology-2, Pathology-2, General Medicine-2,
Integration under other subjects & number of competencies: Human Anatomy-1, Pharmacology-1, Radiodiagnosis-1, Psychiatry-1, General Medicine-11, General Surgery-3, Obstetrics & Gynaecology- 5.					
OSCE- Objective Structured Clinical Examination; OSPE- Objective Structured Practical Examination; DOAP session – Demonstrate, Observe, Assess, Perform; AETCOM- Attitude, Ethics, Communication.					

shows how (SH), perform (P)]. The outcome is a core (Y - must achieve) or a non-core (N - desirable) outcome. There are total 167 topics in Pre-clinical and Para-clinical subjects (7 subjects viz. Human Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Pathology, Microbiology, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology) divided over 1118 outcomes. There are total 14 topics in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology divided in 162 outcomes. The detailed topic-wise distribution is given in **table no. 2**.

Major changes are being done for Forensic Medicine & Toxicology teaching-learning and

assessment pattern. The teaching-learning period is spread over phase II & phase III- part I. The final assessment will be taken at the end of III MBBS-part I with the subjects viz. Community Medicine, Ophthalmology & Oto-rhino-laryngology.²

References:

1. Medical Council of India-Competency Based Undergraduate Curriculum for The Indian Medical Graduate 2018. Available from: <https://www.mciindia.org/CMS/information-desk/for-colleges/ug-curriculum> (Accessed on 01st December 2019).
2. Medical Council of India. Assessment Module for Undergraduate Medical Education Training Program, 2019: pp 15.