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## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### Module Title

Medical Ethics

Reference	BS4272	Version	7
Created	August 2021	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	June 2017	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2021	ECTS Points	7.5

### Aims of Module

To allow students to critically appraise the core principles of biomedical ethics that underpin decision making in biomedicine, medicine, and the legal regulation of these issues.

### Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Critically appraise the ethical principles underlying and justifying actions, and evaluate how these principles underlie scientific, medical and legal decision-making.
- 2 Demonstrate analysis of different approaches taken in selected foreign jurisdictions.
- 3 Critically evaluate moral objections and competing ethical arguments.

### Indicative Module Content

The student will study the underpinning principles, alongside various aspects of biomedicine and medicine which are subjected to legal regulation including: abortion, pre-natal screening and claims of 'wrongful life'; use of genetic information and privacy issues; organ donation and transplantation; non-treatment of the newborn; persistent vegetative state; 'do not resuscitate' orders and living wills; active and passive euthanasia; ethical issues in research and experimentation; ownership of living and dead tissues and cadavers.

### Module Delivery

This is a lecture and seminar based module. Lectures provide core module content. Seminars develop associated higher level skills through student centred learning.

### Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	36	36
Non-Contact Hours	114	114
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

**ASSESSMENT PLAN**

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

**Component 1**

Type: Coursework Weighting: 30% Outcomes Assessed: 1  
 Description: Written coursework exercise

**Component 2**

Type: Coursework Weighting: 70% Outcomes Assessed: 2, 3  
 Description: Written coursework exercise

**MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR****Explanatory Text**

The calculation of the overall grade for this module is based on 30% weighting of C1 (horizontal axis) and 70% weighting of C2 (vertical axis) components. An overall minimum grade D is required to pass the module.

		Coursework:						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	NS
Coursework:	A	A	A	B	B	B	E	
	B	B	B	B	C	C	E	
	C	B	C	C	C	D	E	
	D	C	C	D	D	D	E	
	E	D	D	D	E	E	E	
	F	E	E	E	E	F	F	
	NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination						

**Module Requirements**

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	BS4189 Medical Law

**INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1 BEAUCHAMP, T.L. and CHILDRESS, J.F., 2013. *Principles of biomedical ethics*. 7th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2 JACKSON, E., 2016. *Medical law: texts, cases and materials*. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 3 KEOWN, J., ed., 1997, *Euthanasia examined: ethical, clinical and legal perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 4 LAURIE, G.T., HARMON, S. and PORTER, G., 2016. *Mason and McCall Smith's law and medical ethics*. 10th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.