UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Etica, Bioetica e Deontologia in Midwifery

2627-1-K0103D003-K0103D00303

Aims

The students will develop the knowledge and skills required to engage with the ethical and professional dimensions of midwifery practice. They will be able to make responsible professional decisions that respect the rights, dignity, autonomy and values of individuals receiving care. Students will also be able to identify situations arising in midwifery practice that may give rise to ethical dilemmas and to recognize the contribution of the midwife to ethical reflection and decision-making, particularly in relation to the appropriate and equitable use of healthcare resources.

Contents

The fundamental principles of professional ethics and bioethics underpinning midwifery practice, with a focus on promoting care that respects human dignity, self-determination, autonomy and individual rights, particularly in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Students will learn how to identify, critically analyze and address key ethical, bioethical and professional-ethical issues arising across different care settings and contexts of midwifery practice.

Detailed program

The course will examine informed consent, effective communication and the active involvement of individuals in decisions concerning their own health and care. Particular attention will be given to the principles and values underpinning the midwife's professional responsibility and autonomy, as well as the professional relationship with individuals receiving care and with other healthcare professionals. These topics will be considered with particular reference to the management of ethically complex situations and the challenges involved in collaborative decision-making. Students will be encouraged to critically reflect on ethical issues arising from scientific and technological developments and from broader social changes affecting maternal, newborn and reproductive health. The course

will foster the development of a reflective, critical and responsible approach to professional practice, promoting professional behaviours grounded in integrity, respect, non-discrimination, confidentiality and the protection of the rights and dignity of individuals receiving care. The Formation of Values and Value Conflicts in the Individual and the Professional Midwife. The Ethical Responsibilities of the Midwife. An Overview of the Development of Codes of Ethics for the Midwifery Profession. Ethical Concepts of Advocacy, Accountability, and Caring. Taking Moral Action. Models of Ethical Decision-Making and the Fry and Johnstone Model.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching form

5 in-person lectures of 4 hours each, and discussion of real clinical cases.

Textbook and teaching resource

Federazione Nazionale dei Collegi delle Ostetriche (2002) Guida all'esercizio della professione di ostetrica/o. Edizioni Medico Scientifiche
Fry T.S., Johnstone M. (2004) Etica per la pratica infermieristica. Milano: Casa Editrice Ambrosiana;
Sgreccia E. (2007) Manuale di Bioetica – Vol. 1 Fondamenti ed etica biomedica. Roma: Vita e Pensiero

Semester

First year, first semester

Assessment method

Oral discussion on the topics covered in class

Office hours

By appointment, arranged with the teachers via email

Sustainable Development Goals