

Basic Clinical Skills Curriculum (MDIN 401)

Course Title	:	Basic Clinical Skills
Course Designation	:	MDIN-401
Course Duration	:	15 weeks
Course Units	:	3 credit hours

The aim of the course is to introduce medical students to basic clinical skills. These essential basic clinical skills include ability to obtain patients' history, undertake comprehensive physical and mental state examination, interpretation of findings, and to understand and perform certain basic technical procedures. It also provides hands-on training and practice under supervision to prepare medical students before their first contact with real patients in clinic or hospital setting.

I. RATIONALE:

The concept of learning outside the real situations i.e. 'simulations' and 'visual classrooms'; and then applying the acquired knowledge in real practice has existed for a long time. Its importance enhances with increasing number of students, newer concepts in curriculum implementation such as problem-based learning and genuine concerns of inflicting unprepared students on already suffering patients.

Another advantage of this course is that students can repeat examinations and procedures as often as they like; they can afford to make mistakes without hurting patients; and learn from their own mistakes. Furthermore, this course in first semester of fourth year will

reduce the load on Introductory Clinical Courses in Medicine and Surgery in second semester, where short time of six weeks will be utilized for actual clinical clerkship.

II. OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, the student is able to:

1. Obtain and record detailed clinical history according to standard structured format.
2. Perform thorough and comprehensive physical examination and record in a standard structured format.
3. Analyze the data so obtained in order to define patients' problems and their pathophysiological basis.
4. Appropriately use simple diagnostic aids such as stethoscope, tendon hammer, tuning fork, pocket torch, tape measure, blood pressure apparatus, ophthalmoscope and simple endoscopes such as auroscope, laryngoscope, proctoscope, etc.
5. Appreciate the value of accurate and precise documentation and the confidentiality of medical records.
6. Maintain decency and decorum in presentation, behavior and communication with patients' and their families, colleagues and health professionals.
7. Learn the role of 'Aseptic' techniques while handling patients or entering specific areas of the hospital such as operating rooms, delivery rooms, laboratories, etc.
8. Understand the value of appropriate protection from 'hazardous' material such as radiations, toxic wastes and sharp instruments and body fluids.
9. Identify simple commonly used equipments and their appropriate use such as nasogastric tube, catheters, injection and infusion sets, dressing material like endotracheal tube, sangestaken tube, flatus tube, proctoscope, ECG equipment, etc.
10. Demonstrate on dummies and manikins, the use of above mentioned equipment, as far as possible.
11. Understand that knowing the 'Normal' is essential to appreciate the 'Abnormal' and that 'Normal' can be learnt by either self examination or examinations on normal colleagues or other persons, without depending on patients.

III. COURSE CONTENTS:

1. Introduction to skills of communication with colleagues, health professionals & patients.
2. Template for structured recording of history and physical examination.
3. Techniques of obtaining history such as listening, asking relevant leading questions and extracting information, and its recording.
4. Importance of history as it relates to certain specific situations such as swelling, ulcers, and other similar lesions.
5. General principles of physical examinations on patients. .
6. Comprehensive general physical examination from head to toe, included recording of vital signs.
7. Examination of all the systems of the body and their recording under standard format of inspection, palpation, percussion & auscultation.
8. Regional or local examination of swellings, in general, and in specific areas like neck, breast, inguinoscrotal region etc.
9. Examination of ulcers, sinuses, fistulas and gangrene.
10. Sterilization and aseptic techniques.
11. Identification of basic essential equipment for routine diagnostic techniques.
12. Practical skills and their scientific background:
 - i. Dressings of wounds & ulcers
 - ii. Various types of injections
 - iii. Venous access for blood extraction & infusions
 - iv. Insertion of nasogastric tubes & urinary catheters
 - v. Use of simple endoscopes like, ophthalmoscope, auroscope, laryngoscope & proctoscope.
 - vi. ECG recordings
13. First aid
14. Basic life support

IV. Mode of teaching:

The course will be administered in:

1. Classroom settings with virtual or video demonstrations
2. Small group tutorials
3. Self learning with help of videotape programs and internet
4. Clinical skills laboratory equipped with dummies, manikins, practice models, basic medical equipment and work stations

V. Evaluation:

Continuous assessment	:	40%
Logbook	:	60%
Total	:	100%