

**Maharashtra University of Health Sciences,**

**Nashik**

# **Syllabus**

**“Fellowship Course in Forensic Psychiatry”**

## **Course title: - Fellowship Course in Forensic Psychiatry**

### **General guidelines including syllabus for fellowship course in Forensic Psychiatry**

#### **1) INSTITUTE:-**

1. Department of Psychiatry in Medical Institution and hospital already conducting Medical Council of India recognized post graduate degree/DNB/diploma courses in Psychiatry
2. Department of Psychiatry shall be expected to exist and function independently as per the Medical Council of India guidelines along with services of Psychiatric social worker and Clinical Psychologist.
3. Such department is expected to have liaison with central prison and Judiciary in the region. The department having psychiatric services in central prison (at least an OPD session once/1-2wks in prison) and receiving referrals from Judiciary shall be able to contribute substantially to the fellowship course.
4. Fellowship course can begin, where, at least one unit constituting one Professor, one associate professor and one assistant professor is present.
5. Professor of Psychiatry shall be allowed to guide one student fellow per year.
6. Eligible students for taking up the course shall have completed the Medical council of India recognized M.D. /D.N.B. /D.P.M. in the specialty (Psychiatry/Psychological Medicine), be a mature personality, interested and motivated to pursue study in the area of medicine-law-Psychiatry interface, shall submit one's curriculum vitae and a personal statement (1-2pages) informing, "why one wishes to train himself/herself in this fellowship?".
7. Institute shall be able to provide hostel accommodation to the student fellows during the period of training (one year).
8. Student fees shall be applicable as per the rules and regulations framed by MUHS from time to time.

#### **2) HOSPITAL: -**

1. Facilities for hematological, biochemical and radiological investigations
2. There shall be two inpatient wards to admit male and female persons with mental illnesses respectively. Services of Psychiatric nurses in delivering inpatient care are desirable. Separate facilities to admit, observe and manage persons with mental illnesses in the legal context, especially cases referred from central prison and judicial system shall be highly preferable for powerful delivery of this academic course.
3. Independent OPD space for assessment and management of cases has to be available along with space for services of Psychiatric social worker and Clinical Psychologist.
4. The Psychiatry department must receive adequate referral cases from medical board, central prison, nearby jails and judiciary for varied psychiatric evaluations, reports and clinical situations for management. Such workload shall form the very core of academic study material for the course.
5. Establishment of psychiatric service in central prison, supervised by Professor of Psychiatry is highly desirable to allow substantial exposure of student fellow to the persons with mental illness in legal context. It shall train the student fellow to conduct assessments and treat in prison environment. Such an initiative shall empower in and facilitate an intense delivery of the

fellowship course and allow us to take a step further in delivery of mental health services in prison set up.

### **3) SYLLABUS:-**

Aim: -

1. To build capacity for the management of persons with acute, chronic and severe mental illnesses in legal contexts

Learning objectives:-

1. Provide treatment, care and rehabilitation to persons with mental illness in reference to legal contexts, such that, improvement in capacity takes place, their full potential is developed and re-integration into community life is facilitated.
2. Build an attitude of professionalism for working in difficult clinical situations created within complex legal context
3. Conduct assessments to identify, investigate, formulate and treat persons with acute, chronic and severe mental illnesses in reference to legal context
4. Evaluate patient's potential to harm self and others
5. Comprehend the relationship of mental illness and crime for the purpose of preventing crime
6. Comprehend the impact of legal context in patient's evaluation and treatment
7. Apply knowledge of relevant laws in the assessment and management of the clinical situations arisen in reference to legal context
8. Respond responsibly to Courts (submission of psychiatric evaluation reports and testifying) while providing mental health care in legal context

Desirability of the course:-

1. To set up and sustain mental health care for the management of persons with acute, chronic and severe mental illnesses in reference to judiciary and prisons.

Duration of the course shall be one year

Eligibility : MD (Psychiatry)

### **Syllabus/Course content details:**

Lectures and course content:

1. Introduction to Forensic Psychiatry
2. General principles of law governing persons with mental illnesses
3. Ethics in Psychiatry, punishment and public protection
4. Psychosocial factors in/causes of offending
5. Associations between psychiatric disorders and offending
6. Serious antisocial behavior
7. Mental disorders among offenders in correctional settings
8. Offending, substance misuse and mental disorders

9. Management of offenders with mental illnesses in general psychiatric practice
10. Mental disorders among offenders in correctional settings
11. Assessment and management of offenders with mental disorders in forensic mental health settings
12. Rights of persons with mental illness
13. The role of and function of Forensic Psychiatrist in court proceedings and prison matters

Non-lecture course content:

1. Assessment and management of homicide and sex offenders
2. Domestic violence
3. Arson, stalking and querulous behavior
4. Criminal victimization
5. Cognitive disorders, ADHD, Epilepsy and offending

Seminars:

1. Confidentiality/Privilege
2. Informed consent, capacity to consent for treatment and refusal of medical treatment
3. Amnesia
4. Malingering
5. Self injurious conduct and suicide
6. Indian penal code (sections relevant to commonly and uncommonly encountered clinical challenges)
7. Criminal procedure code (sections relevant to commonly and uncommonly encountered clinical challenges)
8. The disabilities care act
9. The NDPS act
10. The consumer protection act
11. The mental health care act
12. Child custody laws
13. Court ordered forensic evaluations including juvenile and family court assessments
14. Long term (chronic and severely ill persons with mental illnesses) patients in forensic settings
15. Dealing (Assessment and management) with persons having axis II psychopathology in legal contexts (any point from arrest, to conviction and sentencing)
16. Risk assessment for violence
17. Malpractice evaluations, legal responsibility of clinicians and responsibility for psychiatric negligence

Case based reasoning/study:

1. Competency to stand trial evaluation, diminished capacity, competency restoration
2. Criminal responsibility evaluation
3. Incompetent defendants, insanity acquitties, insanity defence
4. Assessment of dangerousness, risk of violence and probability prediction
5. Fitness for duty evaluation
6. Fitness for revolver license evaluation

Case based discussions:

1. Automatisms
2. Seclusion and restraints
3. Boundary violations, sexual misconduct
4. Detection of malingering
5. Dangerousness assessments
6. Suicide risk assessment
7. Violence
8. Psychosis
9. Disability determination

**Minimum Teaching/Learning activities and assignments to be completed during the year:**

(Student fellow is expected to maintain a portfolio of different academic activities participated in during the learning period of one year)

1. Eight lectures
2. Five to seven seminar presentations
3. Four to five case based reasoning/studies
4. Follow up of at least two persons with chronic and severe mental illness in legal context (preferably prison inmates)
5. Three to five case based discussions
6. Three to five occasions of supervised psychiatric report writing for judiciary
7. One to two occasions of witnessing the guide testifying / actually testifying in court

Mentorship: - It is expected, the guide participates in the professional development of student fellow, in area of forensic psychiatry/ medicine-law-psychiatry interface, such that, the student fellow, following the successful completion of the course, is able to independently assess, investigate, formulate and treat persons with mental illnesses in reference to legal contexts and protect mental health in prison environment.

**4) EVALUATION: Examination scheme (summative evaluation at the end of one year):**

1. Theory: 50 marks
  - Q.1. Essay 25mks
  - Q.2. Two SAQ 15mks
  - Q.3. MCQs 10mks
2. Practical: 50mks
  - Q.1. One case based reasoning/study from work during the year to be presented before examiners (15mks)
  - Q.2. One case based discussion from the work done during the year shall be discussed with examiners (15mks)

Q.3. Presentation and discussion of a Psychiatric report with examiners given during the year of training (10mks)

Q.4. Presentation and discussion with examiners of one experience of observation of/ testifying in court (10mks)

It is advisable, to involve the Professors and Heads, Department of Psychiatry conducting MCI recognized post graduate degree, Diplomate and diploma courses in Psychiatry/ Psychological Medicine at various medical institutions and hospitals along with post graduate teachers in psychiatry in forming a committee for giving inputs in the development of and actual implementation of this fellowship course in Forensic Psychiatry.