

Module code: MOD008569		Version: 3 Date Amended: 03/Nov/2025	
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1. Module Title	
Medical Law	

2a. Module Leader	
Jane Martin	

2b. School	
School of Economics, Finance and Law	

2c. Faculty	
Faculty of Business and Law	

3a. Level	
5	

3b. Module Type	
Standard (fine graded)	

4a. Credits	
15	

4b. Study Hours	
150	

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The relationship between law, medicine and ethics is a topic of enormous contemporary interest and relevance. The module aims to explore the legal, moral and ethical concepts and the dynamics of the medical professional/patient relationship and the often conflicting issues which underlie it. The module will examine the critical relationship between the law, and the practice of medicine, including the medical standard of care, consent to treatment and patient confidentiality. These particular areas will provide the framework for discussions in the more topic-specific elements of the course. The module will introduce you to selected areas of medical law including clinical negligence, patient confidentiality, consent to medical treatment, assisted reproduction, abortion, end of life decisions, including physician assisted death, and the withdrawal of treatment from the seriously ill. In selecting from this list, consideration will be taken of any recent developments in the relevant area of law and will assess the impact of human rights law in this area. This module is of particular interest to those students planning to practice in the area of clinical negligence and personal injury, and for those who have an interest in this area of law.

6b. Outline Content

- The regulation of health care professionals;
- Clinical negligence, the medical standard of care, causation, defences;
- Selected issues from: Consent; the competent and incompetent patient;
- Patient confidentiality;
- Abortion;
- The concept of 'rights' Assisted reproduction and the law, the concept of 'wrongful birth' ,involuntary sterilisation for persons with learning disabilities and the 'best interests' test;
- Medical treatment and children; refusal of medical treatment and the concept of adolescent autonomy;
- End of life; the withdrawal of medical treatment, assisted death and the law.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain how legal rules, principles, doctrines, and institutions in medical law interact within wider social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts to balance competing interests;
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and compare a range of legal materials relating to medical law, and evaluate legal arguments, addressing ambiguity and uncertainty with developing independence and insight;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and apply legal understanding to moderately complex scenarios, and construct reasoned and coherent solutions that consider both legal principles and practical outcomes;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate legal information and arguments effectively and coherently, using a logical structure, clear and reasoned expression, and appropriate academic and professional conventions, including consistent OSCOLA referencing.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	25.5	1-4	1 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 1 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 1 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	124.5	1-4	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]