

**Course Title:** **The Physician-patient Relationship (MMPH6217)**

**Department offering the course:** Department of Law/ School of Public Health

**Objective:** This course aims to:

- equip students with a sound understanding of the basic legal principles and doctrines underlying the legal and ethical responsibilities and duties owed to the patients.

**Content:** Topics include:

- Tort of medical negligence, claims in contract and other important responsibilities of physicians such as the taking of consent from minors and incompetent patients, medical confidentiality and privacy of medical information and record;
- Statutory obligations under the Medical Registration Ordinance and other relevant statutory instruments;
- Introduction to professional disciplinary proceedings;
- Ethical and legal obligations of professionals in allied healthcare professions;
- Duties that are likely to arise with the advent and widespread adoption of new technologies in medical practice.

**Learning Outcomes:** On completion of the module, the students are expected to:

- develop understanding of the fundamental common law principles and doctrines, as well as of the applicable legislative framework that governs the relationship of doctors and other professional healthcare providers to patients;
- acquire a sound grounding in the law of negligence (particularly medical negligence) in the context of medical claims, relate legal principles, professional ethics and cultural factors to the rights and obligations of parties to the physician-patient relationship including those of third parties and review the concepts (and limits) of patient autonomy, competence, consent and refusal;
- connect general legal principles to specific statutory and administrative regulation of the healthcare institutions and professions, disciplinary processes, and professional licensing;
- critically examine questions of physician authority, paternalism, and issues of gender, race, class and their relation to access to care, power, and information in the medico-legal system;
- review cases of conflict in physician-patient relations, including privacy and confidentiality, negligence, and financial conflict of interest and apply legal problem-solving techniques to work through cases and distinguish methodology, outcomes, risks, relationships, and moral principles from those used in clinical ethics.

<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None
<b>Duration:</b>	1 semester; 30-36 class hours
<b>Continuous Assessment:</b>	Class participation (30%)
<b>Examination method/ duration:</b>	Take-home final examination (70%)

