

LEX 286
MEDICAL EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: None

Corequisites: None

This course is designed to teach reading and analyzing medical records for legal evaluation of bodily injury and disability claims. Emphasis is on terminology; identifying, obtaining, and reviewing medical records; and study of the major systems of the human body. Upon completion, students should be able to compile, analyze, and organize medical documents to support or disprove injury claims. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 1. Lab, 2. Semester Hours Credit, 2.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the conclusion of this class, the student should be able to:

- a. Exhibit a working knowledge of state and federal court hierarchy.
- b. Exhibit an understanding of civil procedures
- c. Record and file documents appropriately.
- d. Practice ethical behavior and avoid the unauthorized practice of law.
- e. Exhibit appropriate office and courtroom etiquette and demeanor.
- f. Practice teamwork.
- g. Demonstrate competence in writing skills.
- h. Prepare and draft correspondence and memos.
- i. Maintain client communication.
- j. Conduct witness and client interviews.
- k. Explain procedural matters to clients.
- l. Arrange and coordinate appointments, meetings, and conferences.
- m. Convey case status to appropriate individuals.
- n. Coordinate client and witness appearances.
- o. Formulate questionnaires for interviewing clients and witnesses.
- p. Locate and interview expert witnesses and consultants.
- q. Perform background investigations.
- r. Prepare a notebook for settlements, arbitration/mediation, case analysis and trial.
- s. Digest and summarize depositions and transcripts.
- t. Obtain and summarize medical, police, and accident reports.
- u. Prepare and maintain exhibits and visual aids.
- v. Prepare and maintain checklists of exhibits, visual aids, and subpoenaed items and witnesses.
- w. Identify, collect, and preserve physical evidence.
- x. Authenticate exhibits for evidentiary use in court.
- y. Attend and provide assistance to trial attorney at depositions, hearings, and trials.
- z. Set up and use database, case management, docket control, and conflict search programs.
- aa. Prioritize tasks.
- bb. Set up a manual and computer calendaring system for the office to keep attorney, paralegals, and appropriate persons advised of pending deadlines and/or appointments.
- cc. Implement and use the various systems of timekeeping and billing for a client's file.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Mastering the medical record
 - A. The significance of medical records
 - B. What is needed to understand a medical record
 - C. The ideal reference library

- II. Medical Information
 - A. Medical information storage
 - 1) Traditional
 - 2) Electronic
 - 3) Problem oriented records
 - B. Doctor's discharge summaries
 - C. Nurse's notes
 - D. Documents relating to surgery
 - E. Other documents

- III. Organizing medical records for legal purposes
 - A. An introduction to legal/medical records
 - B. Creating a flow chart
 - C. Using a computer to create a flow chart
 - D. Advantages of a flow chart
 - E. Summary and conclusions regarding flow charts

- IV. The medical history and physical examination
 - A. Importance of the history and physical examination
 - B. Various places in the medical record where history and physical may appear
 - C. Outline of history
 - D. Report of the physical examination
 - E. Assessment and plan

- V. Anatomy and physiology
 - A. What legal professionals need to know about neurological injuries
 - B. General outline of the nervous system
 - C. Physiology of the brain cells
 - D. Gray matter and white matter
 - E. Anatomical features of the cerebral cortex and brain mapping
 - F. Penfield's motor and sensory homunculi
 - G. The cerebellum and extrapyramidal system compare
 - H. Spinal cord injuries
 - I. Brain disorders
 - J. Impairments following head injuries
 - K. Proof of neurological impairment
 - L. The neurological examination

- VI. Mental health professionals
 - A. Introduction to psychiatry
 - B. Mental disorder and mental disorders
 - C. Standard classifications of mental disorders
 - D. Vocabulary of psychiatric terms

- VII. Lower back and neck injuries
 - A. The prevalence and significance of back and neck injuries
 - B. Anatomy and physiology of the musculoskeletal system
 - C. Musculoskeletal disorders
 - D. Vocabulary of musculoskeletal terms

- VIII. The heart and vascular systems
 - A. Anatomy and physiology of the cardiac system
 - B. General description of the heart
 - C. Diseases of the cardiovascular system
 - D. The clinical examination of the cardiovascular system
 - E. Vocabulary of cardiovascular system

- IX. The lungs and pulmonary disability
 - A. Anatomy and physiology of the lungs
 - B. Lung diseases
 - C. The investigation of lung diseases
 - D. Examination of the respiratory system
 - E. Vocabulary of the respiratory system

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

J. Stanley McQuade. Reading Medical Records: The McQuade System. (Published by author, 2002).

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.