

IMPROVEMENT OF CURRICULUM DENTAL ASSISTING AS HEALTH CARE

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Abstract

“Dental Assisting” curriculum is a 2-years high education program that is performed only in University “Aleksander Moisiu”, Durres, from year 2007. This curriculum prepares dental assistants. It is a curriculum as health care professional diploma in two languages (Albanian and English) in total with 120 ECTS or 94 USCr. Based on the rapid developments that undergoes the dental science, it is necessary improvement of “Dental Assisting” curriculum in department of Medicine, UAMD. Using different USA and EU curriculums in dental assistants education as leading “Dental Assisting” programs, we decide to perform our curriculum with some elective subjects, like “Dental Equipment and Instrumentation”, “Dental Emergency”, “Ethics and Deontology”, “Dental Implantology” and “Pediatric Dentistry”. So “Dental Equipment and Instrumentation” is necessary to be familiar with the instrumentation and equipment: dental unit, compressor, suction, accessory instrumentation. “Dental Emergency” has subject oral cavity traumas and management of dental pains. “Dental Implantology” is newest science of techniques to replace lost teeth. “Ethics and Deontology” is a course necessary for general ethics, professional ethic and human rights. “Pediatric Dentistry” is a course necessary to manage the children, as dental morphology, caries in children, conservative treatment, anesthesia in children, principles of prevention: fluoridation, pit and fissure sealants and principles of how to behave with children, dental injury. This improvement of curriculum increases the ability of dental assistants to manage some extent difficult cases, ensuring independence from dental physician. Also it encourages students to choose medical courses and have easier transferring from “Dental Assisting” in “Dental Medicine” program. It is seen that has an interest of students attending these courses, even if they are elective. In USA and EU it is shown a high interest to follow this medical program, since the chances of employment are high and the time of graduation slightly short. In near future we think to increase the number of students, because the ratio dental assistant / dental physician graduated is 1:10. Therefore dental physician are obligated to employ near dental clinics unspecialized relatives or nurses.

Keywords: *curriculum, dental assistants, education, students, technique, health care professional diploma*