BSC IN MIDWIFERY

TEACHING: LABORATORY - 2ND YEAR
SSD: MEDS-24/C
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Total ECTS Credits: 1

PREREQUISITES
Students must have achieved the learning objectives of previous courses in Obstetric and Gynecological Nursing Sciences and possess basic knowledge of reproductive physiology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
The laboratory aims to promote fundamental knowledge and competencies related to Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR) techniques, as well as reception, information, and support for couples and individuals undertaking assisted reproduction pathways.
Relational, technical, and organizational aspects necessary to support patients throughout all stages of assisted reproduction will be addressed, including the early identification of possible complications during treatment and in the post-treatment phase.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES
The expected learning outcomes are consistent with the general provisions of the Bologna Process and the specific provisions of Directive 2005/36/EC. They fall within the European Qualifications Framework (Dublin Descriptors) as follows.
By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding
- Describe the fundamental principles of Medically Assisted Reproduction (definitions, legal framework, levels of intervention)
- Illustrate the main MAR techniques (first-level, second-level, advanced techniques) and their clinical indications
- Identify the midwife's role in the couple's pathway: reception, counselling, clinical-care and educational support
- Understand the psychological and psychosocial aspects related to infertility and MAR treatments
- Define the essential elements for effective and sensitive communication in MAR pathways

Applying Knowledge and Understanding
- Support couples throughout the different stages of the MAR pathway (diagnostic, therapeutic, care-related, and follow-up)
- Assist in the management of clinical and care protocols in MAR treatments in compliance with midwifery competencies
- Appropriately use educational materials and informational tools for couples
- Collaborate within a multidisciplinary team (gynecologists, biologists, psychologists) in MAR centres

Communication Skills
- Present the covered concepts clearly, appropriately, and coherently
- Use rigorous and up-to-date scientific language suitable for the clinical-care context
- Adopt empathetic, respectful, and culturally sensitive communication approaches toward couples/individuals experiencing infertility
- Manage delicate communication situations (frustration, therapeutic failures, anxiety, reproductive loss—genetic loss—biological loss)

Autonomy of Judgement

- Critically evaluate the importance of the midwifery role in MAR pathways from a clinical, care, and informational perspective
- Recognize the care, emotional, and informational needs of couples undergoing treatment
- Identify the main critical issues in the MAR pathway and propose appropriate strategies

Learning Skills

- Independently pursue further study through consultation of national and international scientific literature on MAR
- Use reference texts and guidelines to update knowledge
- Develop continuous learning skills applicable to clinical practice in MAR centres

COURSE CONTENT

- Fertility, infertility, sterility: definitions, epidemiology, causes
- Italian legal framework: Law 40/2004 and subsequent amendments
- Overview of international regulatory frameworks
- Reception and orientation of the couple
- Instrumental and clinical examinations prior to treatment
- Clinical indications for MAR
- Description of the main MAR procedures (IUI, IVF, ICSI, PGT, social freezing, embryo transfer)
- Main treatment protocols
- Role of the different healthcare professionals
- Definition of midwifery competencies at different stages of the pathway
- Health education: lifestyle and fertility
- Management of care during the MAR pathway (early recognition of intra- and post-treatment complications)
- Continuity of care in case of pregnancy or treatment failure

TEACHING METHODS

The laboratory consists of 14 hours of teaching, including lectures and interactive educational activities with discussion of clinical cases.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The final assessment will be oral and will cover the topics addressed during the lectures. Knowledge and competencies acquired will be evaluated, as well as the ability to respond appropriately and accurately to questions, demonstrating sufficient command of scientific language.
The evaluation criteria will include: acquired knowledge, autonomy of judgement, communication skills, and learning capacity.
The examination will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- NOT PASSED: Fragmentary and superficial knowledge of the content, errors in applying concepts, inadequate presentation.
- PASSED: At least sufficient and appropriate knowledge of the content, clear and coherent presentation.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Students may request optional workshops to explore specific topics of interest in greater depth.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Riccio M. *The Distracted Stork. The Systemic-Relational Paradigm in the Clinical Management of Sterility and Couple Infertility.* Preface by R. De Bernart. Milan: FrancoAngeli; 2017.
For further reading:

- European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) – https://www.eshre.eu/
- International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) – https://www.iffsreproduction.org/

Teaching materials and slides provided by the lecturer.