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Course Title: Health Management in Crisis

ECTS Credits: 6

Course Duration: Summer Semester (15 Weeks)

Weekly Workload: 3 hours of lectures + 3 hours of independent study/work per week (approx. 180 hours total)

Course Overview:

This course focuses on equipping students with the essential skills, strategies, and knowledge needed to manage health systems effectively during crisis situations. Through the exploration of global and local health emergencies, students will understand the complexities of health management in times of crisis, focusing on disaster preparedness, emergency response, resource management, leadership, and crisis communication. Case studies will form an integral part of the curriculum, allowing students to engage with real-world scenarios.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand** the key principles of health management in the context of crises (e.g., pandemics, natural disasters, conflict zones).
2. **Identify** vulnerabilities in healthcare systems and develop appropriate crisis preparedness and response strategies.
3. **Run** emergency medical and public health responses, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources.
4. **Implement** leadership skills to manage healthcare teams under crisis conditions.
5. **Introduce** ethical challenges and decision-making in health crisis management.
6. **Communicate** effectively with the public, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders during crises.

Course Content:

Topic 1: Introduction to Health Crisis Management

- **Week 1: Introduction to Health Crises and Crisis Management**
 - Definitions and types of crises: Pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflicts, and health system failures

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- Key principles of crisis management in healthcare settings
- Impact of crises on healthcare systems and public health
- **Week 2: Health System Vulnerabilities and Crisis Preparedness**
 - Overview of healthcare systems: Organization and function
 - Crisis preparedness frameworks: Planning, risk assessment
 - Disaster management systems: National vs. local approaches and international frameworks (WHO, UN, Red Cross)

Topic 2: Emergency Response and Healthcare Delivery in Crisis

- **Week 3: Emergency Medical Response**
 - Triage and rapid response protocols
 - Managing mass casualties (medevac)
 - Setting up emergency medical units: Field hospitals, mobile clinics, and etc.
- **Week 4: Public Health Interventions During Crises**
 - Epidemiological surveillance and outbreak response
 - Disease and control measures: Quarantine, isolation, vaccination campaigns
 - Role of public health authorities

Topic 3: Leadership and Decision-Making During Crises

- **Week 5: Leadership in Crisis Situations**
 - Leadership competencies in critical situations
 - Role of healthcare managers in crisis response: Coordination, decision-making, and team management
- **Week 6: Ethical Challenges in Crisis Management**
 - Ethical decision-making: Prioritization, resource allocation, and triage
 - Ethical dilemmas in resource-limited environments
 - Case study: Ethical issues in the COVID-19 pandemic

Topic 4: Crisis Communication and Public Engagement

- **Week 7: Crisis Communication Strategies**
 - Principles of crisis communication: Transparency, accuracy, and empathy
 - Managing public perception and media relations
 - Risk communication: Addressing misinformation, rumors, and panic
 - Social media and digital health communication during crises
 - **Week 8: Community Engagement and Psychosocial Support**
 - Psychosocial impact of crises on communities and healthcare workers
 - Supporting vulnerable populations: Children, elderly, refugees
 - Community-based disaster preparedness and response
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Topic 5: Resource Management in Crisis

- **Week 9:** *Managing Healthcare Resources During Crises*
 - Resource allocation in a crisis: Medical supplies and human resources,
 - Logistics of healthcare delivery in crisis situations
 - Expanding healthcare facilities, field hospitals, and mobile clinics
 - **Week 10:** *Technology and Innovation in Crisis Management*
 - Role of telemedicine, digital health, and mobile apps in crisis response
 - Integrating technology into crisis management frameworks
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Topic 6: Human resource management in crises

- **Week 11:** *Human resources for health-sector emergency management*
 - *Does a human-resources plan for emergency*
 - *Development of database of staff trained in emergency management and maintaining*
 - *Integration of national and international volunteers into service delivery in emergency situations*
 - **Week 12:** *Development of human resources*
 - The roles, responsibilities and authority of each person identified as a responder in case of a crisis
 - Creating measures for identifying gaps vis-à-vis skilled staff
 - Developing and recruitment of staff in crises
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Topic 7: Health financing in crises

- **Week 13:** *National and subnational strategies for financing health-sector emergency management*
 - *Dedication of funds in the national budget for emergency- management and preparedness planning*
 - *Accessing contingency funds for health-sector emergency-response and recovery operations*
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Topic 8: Post-Crisis Recovery and Evaluation

- **Week 14:** *Recovery and Continuity of Care Post-Crisis*
 - Rebuilding healthcare systems: Infrastructure, workforce, and supply chains
 - Long-term care needs and rehabilitation: Chronic diseases, mental health care
 - **Week 15:** *Evaluating Crisis Responses and Continuous Improvement*
 - Post-crisis evaluations: Strengths, weaknesses, and lessons learned
 - Developing crisis management plans for future health emergencies
 - The role of after-action reviews and improving future preparedness
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Teaching Methods:

- **Lectures:** Ex cathedra
- **Case Studies:** Analysis of past health crises (e.g., COVID-19, Ebola and etc.) and their management.
- **Simulations and Role-Playing:** Students will engage in crisis simulation scenarios to practice decision-making.
- **Group Projects:** Development of a comprehensive crisis management plan.
- **Guest Lectures:** Experts from WHO and public health agencies will offer practical insights and experiences.

Assessment and Grading:

- **Colloquium** (10%): Multiple-choice and short-answer questions on crisis management theories and frameworks.
- **Group Project** (30%): Develop a comprehensive crisis management plan for a hypothetical health emergency (pandemic, disaster, etc.).
- **Class Participation** (10%): Active involvement in discussions, simulations, and case study analyses.
- **Final Exam** (50%): written exam

Reading Materials:

- **Primary Textbooks:**
 - *Health Systems and Policy in Crisis* by R. Baum and J. S. Ainsworth
 - *Public Health Emergency Management: A Practical Guide for the Practitioner* by George D. Haddow & Jane A. Bullock
 - *Crisis Management in Health Care: A Comprehensive Guide to Effective Health Systems Response* by Martin J. Lister
- **Additional Readings:**
 - WHO and CDC Guidelines on Crisis Management and Health Emergencies
 - Case studies and research articles from recent health crises (COVID-19, Ebola, etc.)

This **Health Management in Crisis** course is structured to provide students with a thorough understanding of different crisis. By engaging with case studies and crisis simulations students will gain the critical skills needed to respond to complex healthcare emergencies effectively and with leadership.

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