

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

Access to healthcare and medical malpractice litigation 812 (PBL 812)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Law
Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Public Law
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

In this module a multidisciplinary approach is adopted and the topics include the following:

- Justice in the allocation of health resources, access to health care and healthcare insurance
- The nature, scope and incidences of medical malpractice litigation in South Africa
- The nature and scope of damages and compensation for medical negligence
- Grounds of justification for medical interventions and other general defences in medical law
- The various causes of action in medical malpractice litigation
- Vulnerable patients (inclusive of children, the mentally ill/disabled and the elderly) and medical malpractice litigation
- Allied healthcare practitioners (inclusive of nurses, psychologists, traditional healers etc) and medical malpractice
- The role of telemedicine and e-health in medical malpractice
- Reform of medical malpractice law
- The drafting/assessment of pleadings in context of medical malpractice litigation

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and

may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.