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## ABSTRACT

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## THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SPECIAL COMPETENCIES OF GENERAL PRACTICE DOCTORS-FAMILY PHYSICIANS IN PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISEASES OF THE EAR, THROAT, AND NOSE

**Introduction.** Currently, the health care system of Ukraine needs to be restored and optimized due to the situation caused by the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its consequences. At the same time, the availability of medical care is provided by primary medical care on the basis of general medical practice - family medicine. To provide the population with ear, throat, and nose diseases with quality medical care, family doctors must have special theoretical and practical competencies. This determined the relevance of the study.

**The objective of the study:** to determine special theoretical and practical competencies for general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical care for diseases of the ENT organs and the optimal ways to acquire them.

**Materials and methods.** Methods: bibliosemantic, expert assessments, statistical, structural, and logical analysis. Independent experts: 25 specialists according to the defined profile of providing medical care. Materials: project of special competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical assistance for diseases of the ear, throat, and nose.

**Results and their discussion.** In the course of the study, special theoretical and practical competencies were determined for general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical care for diseases of the ENT organs and the optimal ways of acquiring them to provide the population with high-quality primary health care for otolaryngological diseases. Theoretical special competencies provide family doctors with knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the external, middle, and internal ear, throat, and nose; clinical symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the main diseases of the ENT organs and their prevention in the age aspect, as well as the principles of providing emergency care for urgent ENT pathology. The special practical competencies of family doctors in medical care for diseases of the ear, throat, and nose allow doctors to conduct a diagnostic examination and provide emergency medical care and treatment.

**Conclusion.** Theoretical and practical competencies for general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical assistance for diseases of the ENT organs and the optimal ways of their acquisition have been determined by experts.

**Keywords:** general practitioners-family doctors, ear, throat, and nose diseases, medical assistance, provision, competencies.

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## ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ ТА ПРАКТИЧНІ СПЕЦІАЛЬНІ КОМПЕТЕНЦІЇ ЛІКАРІВ ЗАГАЛЬНОЇ ПРАКТИКИ-СІМЕЙНИХ ЛІКАРІВ З НАДАННЯ МЕДИЧНОЇ ДОПОМОГИ ПРИ ЗАХВОРЮВАННЯХ ВУХА, ГОРЛА ТА НОСА

**Вступ.** В теперішній час система охорони здоров'я України потребує відновлення та оптимізації діяльності станом, який викликаний воєнною агресією РФ проти України та її наслідками. При цьому доступність медичної допомоги забезпечує первинна медична допомога на засадах загальної лікарської практики - сімейної медицини. Для забезпечення населення при захворюваннях вуха, горла та носа якісною медичною допомогою сімейні лікарі повинні володіти спеціальними теоретичними та практичними компетенціями. Дане визначило актуальність дослідження.

**Мета дослідження:** визначити спеціальні теоретичні та практичні компетенції для лікарів загальної практики-сімейних лікарів з надання медичної допомоги при захворюваннях ЛОР-органів та оптимальні шляхи їх набуття.

**Матеріали та методи.** Методи: біблосемантичний, експертних оцінок, статистичний, структурно-логічного аналізу. Незалежні експерти: 25 спеціалістів за визначеним профілем медичної допомоги. Матеріали: проект спеціальних компетенцій лікарів загальної практики-сімейних лікарів з надання медичної допомоги при захворюваннях вуха, горла та носа.

**Результати та їх обговорення.** В ході дослідження визначено спеціальні теоретичні та практичні компетенції для лікарів загальної практики-сімейних лікарів з надання медичної допомоги при захворюваннях ЛОР-органів та оптимальні шляхи їх набуття по забезпеченню населення якісною первинною медико-санітарною допомогою при захворюваннях отоларингологічного характеру. Теоретичні спеціальні компетенції забезпечують знання сімейними лікарями анатомії та фізіології зовнішнього, середнього і внутрішнього вуха, горла та носа; клінічної симптоматики, діагностики і лікування основних захворювань ЛОР-органів та їх профілактики у віковому аспекті, а також принципи надання невідкладної допомоги при ургентній ЛОР - патології. Практичні спеціальні компетенції сімейних лікарів із медичної допомоги при захворюваннях вуха, горла та носа дозволяють лікарям провести діагностичне обстеження та забезпечити надання екстреної медичної допомоги і провести лікування.

**Заключення.** Експертним шляхом визначені теоретичні та практичні компетенції для лікарів загальної практики-сімейних лікарів з надання медичної допомоги при захворюваннях ЛОР-органів та оптимальні шляхи їх набуття.

**Ключові слова:** лікарі загальної практики-сімейні лікарі, захворювання вуха, горла та носа, медична допомога, надання, компетенції.

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## INTRODUCTION / ВСТУП

Currently, the health care system of Ukraine needs to be restored and optimized due to the situation caused by the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its consequences [1]. It should be noted that in the pre-war period, the country's health care system was in the stage of reform [2, 3] with priority development of primary medical care on the basis of general medical practice - family medicine [4, 5]. Further improvement of the country's health care system, which is determined at the legislative level [6], requires an organizational restructuring of the system of providing medical care to the population, including for diseases of the ear, throat, and nose.

**Objective:** to determine special theoretical and practical competencies for general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical care for diseases of the ENT organs and optimal ways of acquiring them.

**Materials and methods.** During the research, the following methods were used: bibliosemantic,

expert evaluation, statistical, structural, and logical analysis. Independent experts: 5 scientists, 7 otolaryngologists, 8 general practitioners-family doctors, 5 health care organizers. A total of 25 specialists. The independence of the experts was determined by the fact that they did not have professional ties with the dissertation student and her supervisor. The competence of experts was determined by the presence of the highest or first qualification category in the specialty. The study materials were the competencies of otolaryngologists and questionnaires of an expert study of the possible competencies of general practitioners-family physicians in otolaryngology.

### Results and their discussion

At the beginning of the study, a project on special theoretical competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology was developed, which were evaluated by independent experts. The results of the expert assessment are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Theoretical special competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology

Content of competence	ABS	%
<i>Expertise</i>		
To know the topographical and clinical anatomy of the upper respiratory tract and ear in the age aspect	25	100,0
To know the physiology of ENT organs, the mutual connection of the functional systems of the body, and the level of their regulation	23	92,0
To know clinical and functional research methods in otolaryngology	24	96,0
To know the causes of pathological processes of the upper respiratory tract and ear, the mechanism of their development, and clinical manifestations in the age aspect	24	96,0

Content of competence	ABS	%
To know the clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the nose and paranasal sinuses and their prevention in the age aspect	25	100,0
To know the clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the outer, middle, and inner ear and their prevention in the age aspect	25	100,0
To know the clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the pharynx and their prevention in the age aspect	25	100,0
To know the clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the larynx in the age aspect	25	100,0
To know the clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the trachea and esophagus and their prevention in the age aspect	23	92,0
To know the principles of providing emergency care for urgent ENT pathology	25	100,0
To know the clinical symptoms of borderline conditions in otorhinolaryngology	22	88,0
To know the basics of pharmacotherapy in the treatment of ENT patients	25	100,0
To know the indications and contraindications for sanatorium-resort treatment of ENT patients	18	72,0
To know the means and methods of pain relief in otorhinolaryngology	23	92,0
Know the basics of examination of temporary incapacity in otorhinolaryngology	25	100,0

Analysis of those listed in Table 1 of the data indicates that independent experts most highly assessed the need for general practitioners-family doctors to acquire such theoretical competencies in otolaryngology, which ensure knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the external, middle, and internal ear, throat and nose by the relevant doctors; clinical symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of the main diseases of the ENT organs

and their prevention in the age aspect, as well as the principles of providing emergency care for urgent ENT pathology.

Then, a project on special practical competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology was developed, which were evaluated by independent experts. The results of the expert assessment are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Practical special competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology

Content of competence	ABS	%
<i>Special practical skills. Be able to:</i>		
Get information about the disease, identify general and specific signs of the disease, especially in cases requiring emergency care or intensive therapy	25	100,0
Substantiate the treatment plan for patients with pathology of the ENT organs	25	100,0
To justify and ensure the further medical route of a patient with the pathology of the ENT organs	25	100,0
Carry out palpation and percussion of the nose and sinuses	23	92,0
Perform anterior rhinoscopy	25	100,0
Conduct a middle rhinoscopy	23	92,0
Carry out a posterior rhinoscopy	17	68,0
Examine the respiratory and olfactory functions of the nose, take smears from the ENT organs	24	96,0
Conduct a finger examination of the nasopharynx	18	72,0
Perform an oropharyngoscopy	15	60,0
Carry out a study of the taste function.	22	88,0
Examine the palatine tonsils	24	96,0

Content of competence	ABS	%
Examine the larynx	24	96,0
Conduct palpation of the larynx, trachea, and border areas	22	88,0
Perform indirect laryngoscopy	18	72,0
Perform microlaryngoscopy	19	76,0
Carry out palpation and percussion of the mastoid process	24	96,0
Conduct an otoscopy	24	96,0
Examine the patency of the auditory tube	22	88,0
Carry out anemization of the mucous membrane of the nose	20	80,0
Wash the lacunae of the palatine tonsils	19	76,0
Remove the foreign body from the nose, throat, external auditory canal	21	84,0
Remove the sulfur plug by washing	25	100,0
Carry out applied anesthesia of the nose, pharynx, larynx, and ears	22	88,0
Perform endolaryngeal infusion of therapeutic solutions	14	56,0
Remove the foreign body from the larynx and laryngopharynx	12	48,0
Perform a puncture and dissection of a hematoma and an abscess of the nasal septum	21	84,0
Stop nosebleeds	25	100,0
Perform posterior and anterior tamponade of the nose	22	88,0
Stop bleeding from the throat	19	76,0
Stop bleeding from the ear	20	80,0
Conduct an autopsy of the abscess of the nasal septum	21	84,0
Conduct an autopsy of a retropharyngeal abscess	13	52,0
Conduct an autopsy of a paratonsillar abscess	15	60,0
Conduct an autopsy of a hematoma and abscess of the auricle	22	88,0
Carry out primary surgical treatment of the wound	25	100,0
Perform a tracheostomy	23	92,0

Analysis of the data presented in Table 2 indicates that the special practical competencies of general practitioners-family doctors in medical care for diseases of the ear, throat, and nose, the possession of which allows doctors to conduct a diagnostic examination and provide emergency medical care, were rated the highest by independent experts.

It should be noted that in order to ensure the practical implementation of special competencies by general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical assistance to the population for diseases of the ENT organs, it is necessary to provide family outpatient clinics with medical products in accordance with the national classification of medical products NK 24:2019 [7], that means that the equipment of family clinics should have additions.

The next step of the study was to establish the desired ways of acquiring certain competencies in otolaryngology by general practitioners-family doctors. Each expert had the right to positively evaluate up to three desired ways of acquiring special competencies by general practitioners-family doctors in providing medical assistance to the population for diseases of the ENT organs. The obtained results are shown in Table 3.

The analysis of the data presented in Table 3 shows that the most preferred methods of acquiring competencies by general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology are short-term trainings on special topics (96.0%), internship at the workplace in an otolaryngologist's office in a polyclinic (76.0%), thematic improvement in otolaryngology and internship at the workplace in the otolaryngology department of the hospital (68.0%).

Table 3 – Preferred ways of acquiring competencies by general practitioners-family doctors in otolaryngology

Possible ways to acquire competencies	ABS	%
Thematic improvement courses in otolaryngology	17	68,0
Short-term trainings on specific topics	24	96,0
Internship at the workplace in the office of an otolaryngologist in a polyclinic	19	76,0
Internship at the workplace in the otolaryngology department of the hospital	17	68,0
Methodical guidelines	5	20,0
Seminars	5	20,0
Remote trainings	8	32,0
Telemedical consultations	10	40,0

**CONCLUSIONS / ВИСНОВКИ**

With the help of expert assessments theoretical and practical competencies for general practitioners-

family doctors in providing medical care for diseases of the ear, throat, and nose and the optimal ways of their acquisition have been determined.

**PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH / ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ ПОДАЛЬШИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ**

It is promising to study the volume and quality of medical care provided by family doctors to patients with diseases of the ear, throat, and nose.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST / КОНФЛІКТ ІНТЕРЕСІВ**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS / ВКЛАД АВТОРІВ**

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