

Pediatrics for 5th-Year Medical Students

Academic Year 2025/26 – First Semester

Lectures

During the first semester, the main aim of the lectures is to introduce students to the theoretical foundations of pediatrics. Following the understanding of healthy physiological processes (e.g. neonatal adaptation, nutrition, growth, development), the lectures will cover the specific aspects of diagnostics and therapy. Pediatric skills such as history taking, physical and instrumental examination methods, pharmacological and other therapies, as well as the recognition and management of common disease groups will primarily be presented. The detailed discussion of pediatric subspecialties will take place in the second semester.

Seminars

In the seminars, the most common pediatric diseases will be presented in a practical manner, with a focus on their recognition and management. While the lectures are intended to provide an understanding of disease development, interpretation, and pathomechanisms—mainly emphasizing factual knowledge—the seminars approach disease groups interactively through clinical cases, encouraging joint thinking and problem solving among students.

Practices

Practices are held in small groups, each group being split into two subgroups (A and B) due to the high number of students. Each subgroup has a dedicated instructor (see schedule in Coospace). Due to regulated group sizes, transferring to another group is only allowed in exceptional cases (see below: request for an individual study schedule). Each student must register for their assigned subgroup in Coospace based on the schedule provided.

In the practices held by their designated instructor, students acquire the steps of pediatric history taking and physical examination during bedside patient encounters. As the practicals are based on the inpatients/outpatients currently available, slightly different disease groups may be presented to each group. The teaching in the practicals and the practical exam at the end of the semester are both based on a unified evaluation system. The necessary materials for preparation and the point-based evaluation system will be available in Coospace, and students are encouraged to structure their patient examinations accordingly. Before practicals, students should wait at the location agreed upon with their instructor (Pediatric Clinic “A” and “B” wards). If the instructor does not arrive within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time, this should be reported to the Secretariat.

In addition to the general pediatric practices held by the assigned instructors, there will also be “thematic practices” organized according to a set schedule, allowing students to become more familiar with subspecialties taught by specialists in the respective fields. The rotation schedule of the thematic practices will be available in Coospace.

Locations of the “thematic” practices:

- **Neonatology** – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Neonatal Unit
- **Psychiatry** – Child Psychiatry, new building
- **pBLS** – Skills Center, Dóm Square
- **Surgery** – Pediatric Clinic, Library
- **Skills** – Skills Center, Dóm Square
- **NICU** – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NICU

For the practices, students must bring a white coat and their own stethoscope! White coats are provided by the clinic and can be taken from the changing room next to the lecture hall. Without a personal stethoscope, students cannot start the practical and it will be considered an absence! Watches, bracelets, rings, artificial nails, and any other accessories hindering hand hygiene are strictly forbidden during bedside practices.

Participation in the neonatal unit practices at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology requires a clean white coat, shoe covers, and a face mask, which must be collected from the Pediatric Clinic changing room before the session and brought along.

Topics

In the first semester, the focus is on general pediatric topics, basic knowledge characteristic of pediatrics, and the ability to recognize critically ill children and initiate their management. In the second semester, the most common diseases of various pediatric subspecialties will be presented. The content of the lectures, seminars, and practices is based on the minimum requirements of pediatrics.

Requirements

The Pediatrics course cannot be taken without completing the Pharmacology course. Attendance at seminars and practices is compulsory! Missed practices cannot be made up (e.g. by attending another group). A maximum of 3 absences per semester are allowed for both practices and seminars; exceeding this limit means the semester cannot be accepted. No midterm assessments are held during the semester. The course concludes with a colloquium at the end of the semester, with the updated list of exam topics available in Coospace. Preparation should be based on the exam topics using the relevant chapters of the Tulassay textbook, as well as the lecture and seminar materials provided. The practical exam will take place on the day of the colloquium, immediately before the theoretical exam, and will be evaluated objectively according to the criteria available in Coospace.

Textbook:

Prof. Dr. Tivadar Tulassay: *Clinical Pediatrics*

Prof. Dr. László Maródi: *Pediatric Propedeutics* (not compulsory)

Provided materials:

Practical Pediatric Propedeutics (practical material, 2024)

(Coospace) Uploaded materials for individual lectures and seminars

Practical exam sheet (evaluation criteria for the practical exam)

Requesting an Individual Study Schedule

Due to the exceptionally high number of individual study and exam schedule requests in recent years, the following regulations have been introduced. Any deviation from the study and exam schedule defined by the Academic Office can only occur with the approval of the Academic Committee. From the Pediatric Clinic's side, the prerequisite for initiating the approval process is an official document certifying the circumstances underlying the request (e.g. employer's certificate). The certificate must clearly state that the given circumstance conflicts with the standard schedule (e.g. working hours conflicting with a teaching or exam session). The request, together with the certificate, must be submitted by email to the Pediatric Clinic Secretariat at least 5 working days before the start of the teaching or exam event. After evaluation by the Pediatric Clinic, requests supported by the institution must be submitted to the Academic Committee through the SZTE Modulo system.

Contact

For academic matters, the Clinic's Secretariat is available via email. If personal presence is required for administration, students will be informed of the appointment by email.

Pediatric Clinic Secretariat:

Tímea Bencsik-Füzesi
Educational Coordinator
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Dr. Csaba Bereczki – Responsible for English programme, Associate Professor, Head of Paediatric Department

Szeged, 26 August 2025