Anatomy of Law for Physicians is a brief introduction to select topics of interest to physicians, including the formation of the physician-patient relationship, regulation and liability related to this unique relationship and the status of issues related to finance and reimbursement in the age of health reform.

**Instructor**

Julie Agris, PhD, JD, LLM
Contact: Julie.agris@stonybrook.edu

**Syllabus**

This course consists of four (4), two (2) hour classes with two written assignments. Medicine and law are closely intertwined across a variety of dimensions. However, this brief selective will touch upon a selection of topics that inevitably affect all physicians engaged in the practice of medicine, including the formation of the physician-patient relationship, regulation and liability related to this unique relationship and the status of issues related to finance and reimbursement in the age of health reform.

**Educational Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course students will have considered topics such as:

1. The legal system, medicine and medical malpractice. The truth about malpractice claims and why some physicians seem to never be sued while others are continuous targets.
2. Contract law for physicians. What is involved in being a member of a group practice and/or partnership? What do you need to know in today’s practice environment?
3. Using the law as and advocate for your patients. Protecting patients from fraud and abuse.

**Topics and Dates**

Session 1
Medical Malpractice and Tort Reform
Why physicians are sued, what really happens in a suit, how physicians avoid suits and defend themselves.

Session 2
Contracts, Torts and Negligence
Group practices and corporate contracts
Practicing as a member of a group

Session 3
Fraud and Abuse, Anti-kickback and Stark Laws
How to protect yourself and your patients from abuse

Session 4
Physician Reimbursement Regulation: lowering costs, improving quality and engaging patients in the age of health reform

**Written Assignment Due**

Last updated on: 7/6/2017
Evaluation

Grading is based upon meaningful engagement and participation (50%) evidenced by reading assigned texts prior to class meetings and applying relevant concepts to discussions. One written reflective assignment (50%) should be coherently and concisely written and be two (2) to three (3) pages in length.

Class Size

Minimum 5
Maximum 10