

# **CODE OF PHARMACEUTICAL ETHICS**

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## **Under Guidance**

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**Introduction:**

- (1)Ethics may be defined as the "science of morals" or the "code of moral principles".
- (2)The pharmacy profession is a noble and serious one.
- (3)The codes which are related to pharmacy profession are called as pharmaceutical ethics.
- (4)These ethics are very important for conducting the standard pharmacy profession.
- (5)These ethics are useful to develop the good functioning of pharmacy in the society.
- (6)The ethics are also useful for pharmacist to differentiate between right or wrong in the profession of pharmacy.

**Principles of pharmacist:**

- (a)Promoting the good caring, confidential and compassionate manner.
- (b)Respecting the covenantal relationship between the patient and pharmacist.

- (c) Serving individual, society and community needs.
- (d) Respecting the dignity and autonomy of each patient.
- (e) Seeking justice in the distribution of health sources.
- (f) Respecting the values and abilities of colleagues and other health professionals.
- (g) Maintaining a integrity and honesty professional relationship.
- (h) Maintenance of professional competition.

**The code of ethics framed by pharmacy council of india for pharmacists in India:**

- (A) Pharmacist in relation to his trade
- (B) Pharmacist in relation to his job
- (C) Pharmacist in relation to his profession
- (D) Pharmacist in relation to his medical profession

**(A) Pharmacist in relation to his trade:**

It includes-

**(a) Price structure:**

1. Fair prices should be charged to all customers.
2. Prices should be in accordance to quality and quantity of drugs.
3. Adequate remuneration get by the pharmacist as per his skills and knowledge.

**(b) Fair trade practice:**

1. Cut throat competitions should be avoided among pharmacies by offering prices or gifts.

2. Labels, trade marks, symbols of other pharmacies should not be copied.
3. Avoid dispensing of prescriptions of other pharmacies show the right place to the customer.

**(c) Purchase of drugs:**

1. Purchase of drugs shall be from licensed and recognized sources only.
2. Standard and genuine drugs should be purchased.

**(d) Hawking of drugs:**

1. Hawking methods of drugs should not be encouraged.
2. Self service methods should not be practice.

**(e) Advertising and displays:**

1. Any material should not be displayed either in the press or on the premises.
2. Advertisements should not include-
  - (a) Giving a guarantee
  - (b) offering a scheme
  - (c) Exaggerated statements

**(B) Pharmacist in relation to his job:**

It includes-

**(a) Scope of pharmaceutical services:**

1. There is no delay in the supply of commonly required medicines.
2. The services should reflect the professional character of pharmacy.

**(b) Conduct of pharmacy:**

1. The pharmacy should be conducted by a qualified pharmacist.
2. There should be no error in dispensing and supply of medicines.

**(c) Handling of drugs:**

1. Pharmacists should correctly and carefully dispense the standard quality of drugs.
2. All the ingredients of drugs should be weighed and measured accurately.

**(d) Handling of prescription:**

1. He should not add, omit or substitute of any prescription without consultant of prescriber.
2. If there is any doubts and errors regarding the prescription, it should be referred back to the prescriber.

**(e) Apprentice pharmacist:**

1. Senior pharmacists advise the trainee pharmacists.
2. The trainees are given full facilities, skills and other techniques seen by a senior pharmacist.

**(C) Pharmacist in relation to his profession:**

It includes-

**(a) professional vigilance:**

1. All the provisions of the pharmaceutical laws and regulations of profession should be fulfilled by a pharmacist.
2. Pharmacist should be vigilant at the same time to remove the undesirable out of the profession.

**(b) Law-abiding citizen:**

1. A fair knowledge regarding to laws of profession.
2. A Pharmacist, Particularly conversant with the related to drugs, pharmacy etc.

**(c) Relationship with professional organisation:**

1. Pharmacist should promote and encourage the activities of professional organisations.

2. A good relationship should be maintained by a pharmacist with professional organisations.

**(d) Manner and propriety:**

1. A pharmacist should avoid doing all such activities which are not in manner and propriety of pharmacy profession.

2. Pharmacist should not criticise the profession of pharmacy.

**(D) Pharmacist in relation to his medical profession:**

It includes-

**(a) Limitations of professional activities:**

1. Under no circumstances, the pharmacist should take to medical practice even if requested by patrons to do so.

2. The pharmacist should not recommend a medical practitioner, if specifically asked to do so.

**(b) Clandestine arrangements:**

1. No secret arrangements or contact with any physician to give him any commission or any advantage related to his pharmacy store.

**(c) Liaison with public:**

1. The pharmacist should always keep himself in liaison with public.

2. It is important to contact with other medical professionals for the modern developments of pharmacy.

**Pharmacist Oath:**

- (1) I swear to do that I can do to improve and protect the moral and physical well being of the community, holding the health and safety of my society.
- (2) I shall safeguard the distribution of potent and medical substances.
- (3) I shall uphold the standards and laws governing my profession, by avoiding all forms of misrepresentations.
- (4) I shall struggle to protect and enlarge my knowledge contributing to the advancement of pharmacy and public health.
- (5) I shall hold the knowledge gained about the patient confidentially and never divulge unless compelled to do so by laws.
- (6) I swear furtherly to maintain my credit and honour in all transcriptions and never bring discredit to myself or my profession.
- (7) May I live long and prosper in favour as I hold this my oath, but if I break these promises, may the reverse be my lot.

### **Conclusion:**

- 1) The code of ethics are important to all the pharmacists.
- 2) These ethics are maintained and followed by every pharmacist for a smooth functioning of pharmacy profession in the community.

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