

# Chapter-11

## Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics

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**Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics: Definition, ethical principles, ethical problem solving, registration, code of ethics for Pharmacist in relation to his job, trade, medical profession and his profession, Pharmacist's oath.**

### Definition of Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics:

- The Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics refers to a set of guidelines and principles that govern the behavior of pharmaceutical professionals in their interactions with patients, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders.
- It outlines the standards of conduct and professional practice expected of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other pharmaceutical professionals, and helps to ensure that they act with integrity, competence, and responsibility.

### Ethical problem solving:

Ethical problem-solving in pharmacy involves a systematic approach to identifying and resolving ethical dilemmas that arise in the course of providing pharmaceutical care. The process typically involves the following steps:

1. **Identify the ethical issue:** The first step in ethical problem-solving is to identify the ethical issue or dilemma at hand. This may involve analyzing a particular situation, reviewing relevant policies and guidelines, and consulting with colleagues or other experts as needed.
2. **Gather information:** Once the ethical issue has been identified, the pharmacist should gather all relevant information and data to help understand the problem and evaluate possible solutions.
3. **Analyze the ethical issue:** The pharmacist should then analyze the ethical issue, taking into account all relevant factors, including patient rights, professional obligations, legal requirements, and any other relevant considerations.
4. **Consider possible solutions:** Based on the analysis of the ethical issue, the pharmacist should consider possible solutions to the problem. This may involve brainstorming with colleagues, reviewing relevant guidelines and policies, or seeking advice from experts in the field.

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5. Evaluate the solutions: The pharmacist should evaluate the potential benefits and risks of each proposed solution, taking into account the interests of all stakeholders, including the patient, other healthcare providers, and the public.
6. Choose and implement the solution: After evaluating the possible solutions, the pharmacist should choose the most appropriate solution and implement it in a timely and effective manner.
7. Monitor and review: Finally, the pharmacist should monitor the situation and review the results of the chosen solution, making any necessary adjustments or modifications as needed.

By following these steps, pharmacists can effectively identify and resolve ethical dilemmas in pharmacy, while ensuring that they provide the highest quality of care to their patients and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.

## Code of ethics for Pharmacist in relation to his job:

### 1) Pharmaceutical services

- Pharmacy premises (medicine shops) should be registered.
- Emergency medicines and common medicines should be supplied to the patient without any delay

### 2) Conduct of pharmacy

- Error of accidental contamination in the preparation, dispensing and supply of medicines should be checked in a pharmacy.

### 3) Handling of prescription

- A pharmacist should receive a prescription without any comment on it that may cause anxiety to the patient
- No part of the prescription should be changed without the consent of the prescriber. In case of changing the prescription should be referred back to the prescriber.

### 4) Handling of drugs

- A Prescription should always be dispensed correctly and carefully with standard quality drug or excipients. Drugs that have abusive potential should not be supplied to any one.

### 5) Apprentice pharmacist

- Experienced pharmacist should provide all the facilities for practical training of the apprentice pharmacists.
- Until and unless the apprentice proves himself or herself certificate should not be granted to him/her.

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## Pharmacists in Relation to his trade:

### 1. Price Structure:

- Prices charged from customers should be fair and in keeping with the quality and quantity of commodity supplied and the labor and skill required in making it ready for use, so as to ensure an adequate remuneration to the pharmacist taking into consideration his knowledge, skill, the time consumed and the great responsibility involved, but at the same time without unduly taxing the purchaser.

### 2. Fair Trade Practices:

- No attempt should be made to capture the business of a fellow pharmacist by cut-throat competition, that is, by offering any sort of prizes or gifts or by knowingly charging lower prices for medical commodities than those charged by fellow pharmacist.
- In case any order or prescription genuinely intended to be served by some dispensary is brought by mistake to another, the latter should refuse to accept it and should direct the customer to the right place.
- Labels, trademarks and other signs and symbols of contemporaries should not be imitated or copied.

### 3. Purchase of Drugs:

- Drugs should always be purchased from genuine and reputable sources and a pharmacist should always be on his guard not to aid or abet, directly or indirectly the manufacture, possession, distribution and sale of spurious or sub- standard drugs.

### 4. Hawking of Drugs:

- Hawking of drugs and medicinal should not be encouraged nor should any attempt be made to solicit orders for such substances from door to door.
- `Self-service` method of operating pharmacies and drug - stores should not be used as this practice may lead to the distribution of therapeutic substances without an expert supervision and thus would encourage self- medication, which is highly undesirable.

### 5. Advertising and Displays:

- No display material either on the premises, in the press or elsewhere should be used by a pharmacist in connection with the sale to the public of medicines or medical appliances which is undignified in style or which contains:-
  - a. Any offer about refund of money.
  - b. Misleading, or exaggerated statements or claims.
  - c. The word "Cure" in reference to an ailment or symptoms of ill-health.
  - d. A guarantee of therapeutic efficacy.
  - e. An appeal to fear

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## Pharmacists in Relation to his profession:

1. Extend help to fellow pharmacist in emergency need.
2. Should Maintain Standard of the profession.
3. Should try to weed out corruption in profession and society
4. He should not be afraid of bringing or causing a miscreant to be brought to book, may be a member of his own profession.
5. Should have up to date Knowledge of Professional matters
6. Should have fair knowledge of laws related to his profession

## Pharmacists in Relation to his medical profession:

1. **Limitation of Professional Activities:** Pharmacist under no circumstances, take to medical practice i.e. diagnosing drug and prescribing medicines. In emergency he can give first aid to the person. Should not recommend a medical practitioner,
2. **Clandestine Arrangement:** No pharmacist should enter into the secret arrangement and contract with the physician to offer him any commission or any other advantage.
3. **Liaison with Public:** Being a liaison between medical profession and people, a pharmacist will always keep himself updated with the modern development of pharmacy by regular reading of books, magazines etc.

## Pharmacist's Oath:

- At this time, I vow to devote my professional life to the service of all humankind through the profession of pharmacy.
- I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of human suffering my primary concerns.
- I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal drug therapy outcomes for the patients I serve.
- I will keep abreast of developments and maintain professional competency in my profession of pharmacy.
- I will maintain the highest principles of moral, ethical, and legal conduct.
- I will embrace and advocate change in the profession of pharmacy that improves patient care.
- I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.