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Pharmacy Law & Ethics
Chapter 10 : Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics

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Chapter 10
Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics

- **Ethics :** It means good treat or behaviour to other which is not compulsory by any act or rule. in other words we can say ethics is help or to give benefits to other.
- **Pharmaceutical Ethics :** The ethics are related to pharmacy profession are called Pharmaceutical ethics.
- **Code of Pharmaceutical ethics Code :** Rule and discipline . or moral rule and discipline The code of pharmaceutical ethics is formulated by the PCI for guidance of Indian Pharmacists, which helps a pharmacist to commit moral activities.

Ethical Principles

- **Consumer**
  - Recognizing the consumer's Health and well Being as the first priority.
  - Respecting the consumer's Autonomy and Rights and encouraging them to participate in Decision- Making.
- **Community**
  - Upholding the reputation and public trust on the Profession.
  - Acknowledging the Professional Roles and Responsibilities to wider Community
- **Pharmacy Profession**
  - Demonstration a Commitment(giving time and attention) to the development and enhancing the profession
  - Maintaining a Contemporary (latest, recent) Knowledge of Pharmacy practice and ensuring health.
- **Business Practice**
  - Conducting the pharmacy ethically and professionally
- **Other healthcare Professionals**
  - Working Collaboratively with other health professionals for optimising the health Outcomes of the Consumer.

Ethical Problem Solving

- The techniques are used to solve Ethical problems are called ethical problem Solving.
- The process typically involves the following steps:
  - **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.
  - **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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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.

Pharmacist in Relation to his Trade

→ In relation to his trade Pharmacist Should follow the following :

- **Price :** The pharmacist should charge a reasonable price for drugs , which should not be a burden for consumers.
- **Fair trade Practice :** Any type of gift , prizes or any other attractive thing should not be offered and also the Pharmacist should not lower the prices than Charged by the other pharmacist in that area to capture the market.
- **Purchase of Drugs :** He should buy the drugs only from registered dealers.
- **Advertisement :** The pharmacist should avoid every type of advertisement to increase his income.

Pharmacist in Relation to his Medical profession

- **Prescribing :** The pharmacist avoid Medical Practice like(Prescribing , diagnosis) as Physician avoid pharmacy practices.
- **Commission :** The pharmacist should not make a secret agreement with physician to send patients to his store on commission.

Pharmacists in Relation to his profession

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

Pharmacist's Oath

→ Given below is the Pharmacist's Oath which should be taken without hesitation by a pharmacist:

- I swear by the Code of Ethics of Pharmacy Council of India in relation to the community and shall act as an integral part of healthcare team.
- I shall uphold the laws and standards governing my profession.
- I shall strive (try very hard) to perfec t and enlarge my knowledge to contribute to the advancement of pharmacy and public health.
- I shall follow the system, which I consider best for pharmaceutical care and counselling of patient.
- I shall endeavour (try hard) to discover and manufacture drugs of quality to alleviate (to decrease the effect) sufferings of humanity.
- I shall hold in confidence the knowledge gained about the patients in connection with my professional practice and never divulge (expose the secret) unless compelled to do so by the law.
- I shall associate with organisations having their objectives for betterment of profession of pharmacy and make contribution to carry out the work of these organisations.
- While I continue to keep this oath inviolate, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and practice of pharmacy respected by all, at all times! Should I trespass and violate the oath, may the reverse be my lot.

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