

Editor Note on Ethics in Pharmacy

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Pharmacists are health professionals who assist individuals in making the best use of medications. This Code, prepared and supported by pharmacists, is intended to state publicly the principles that form the fundamental basis of the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists. These principles, based on moral obligations and virtues, are established to guide pharmacists in relationships with patients, health professionals, and society.

The pharmacy career is noble in its values and pious in its personality. It has inherent in it the mentality of service and sacrifice in the interests of the oppressed humanity, apart from being a profession for earning subsistence. A pharmacist is, along with medical men, a pharmacist in the handling, sale, delivery, compounding and dispensing of medical substances like poisons and powerful medicines and others charged with the onerous duty of protecting people's health. As such, above all else, he has to protect the interests of his patrons. In his enunciation, the high standards set up by Charkas, the ancient philosopher physician and pharmacist: "Even if your own life is in danger, you should not betray or neglect the interests of your patients," all Pharmacist should be fondly cherished.

In order to ensure an effective pharmaceutical service, standards of professional conduct in the field of pharmacy are required in the public interest. Not only should all pharmacists be able to play their part in delivering such a service, they should also avoid any act or omission that would prejudice the provision of services or impair confidence in any regard for pharmacists as a body.

The essence of pharmaceutical practice is such that its criteria might be beyond the individual's ability to perform or perform as quickly or as effectively as the public's needs need. There should, therefore, be a willingness to assist colleagues with data or guidance at all times.

When a drug is introduced, continuous safety monitoring is important, since by the time the marketing authorisation is given the medicine would have been tested in a very small number of patients for a limited period of time.

A pharmacist's ethical duties related to the patient include:

To recognizing the health and well-being of the consumer as their first concern, using information and delivering compassionate care in an acceptable and competent way.

To value the autonomy and rights of the user and allow them to make educated choices about their wellbeing. This should include respect for the consumer's integrity, privacy, confidentiality, uniqueness and preference

A pharmacist's ethical obligations relating to the community include:

- Upholding the prestige and confidence imposed on the profession by the public and refraining from violating this trust and respect.
- To understand their place in the broader community, including their professional position and obligations for optimal health outcomes in the management and supply of pharmaceutical products.

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