Opinion Article

Brief Note on Ethics in Pharmacy

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DESCRIPTION

Pharmacists are the essential part of the healthcare multidisciplinary team. They help to make sure that medicines are used in the safest and most effective manner. However, the profession in Pharmacy, particularly the community pharmacy, sits at the connection between health and retail, as the profits are gained from the making sales of the medications. This introduces a number of the ethical complications and a strong need for guidelines to the base decisions on that are centered on the moral obligations and virtues.

Ethical principles

The code of conduct to guide the decision-making for pharmacist and to maintain ethical integrity differs according to the country and the professional body that creates the guidelines. However, the ethical principles are alike and separated into five main categories:

Legally, online pharmacies must be licensed in any of the region, where consumers may do purchase, although the exact guidelines vary according to the country or state of practice. Additionally, the physical properties of online pharmacies marketing to some countries, such as the United States, must be based in the country to which the sales takes place.

The responsibilities of a pharmacist that relate to the consumer may include:

- To identify the consumer's health and wellbeing as their first priority, and to utilize the knowledge and provide compassionate care in an appropriate and in a professional manner.
- To respect the consumer's independence and rights and that assist them in making informed decisions about their health. This might include respecting the dignity, privacy, confidentiality, individuality and the choice of the consumer.

The responsibilities of a pharmacist that relate to the community include:

- To maintain the reputation and belief that the public has placed on the profession and refrain from abusing this trust and the respect.
- To acknowledge their place in a broad community, including their professional role and the responsibilities to control and to supply pharmaceutical goods for optimal health outcomes.

The responsibilities of a pharmacist that relate to the profession include:

- To commit to the development and the enhancement of the profession by becoming involved in such type of the activities like training staff, teaching, being a preceptor or mentor for the students, interns or colleagues, participating in initiatives to develop the profession and to demonstrate positive leadership.
- To keep up-to-date with knowledge of pharmacy practice with lifelong learning and the self-development to maintain the professional competence and personal health to continue practicing.
- To practice only when their professional independence, judgment and the integrity remains upheld, and to manage situations with a conflict of interest appropriately.

The responsibilities of a pharmacist that relate to business practices include:

• To conduct the business practices of pharmacy in an ethical and in a professional manner with the consumer's best interest in mind and due respect to the colleagues and the reputation of the profession.

The responsibilities of a pharmacist that relate to other health professionals include:

• To work in cooperation and collaboration with the other healthcare professionals to achieve the optimal health outcomes for the consumers [1-5].

CONCLUSION

Ethics in pharmacy practice is very important that the pharmacists always uphold their professional integrity and the

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Received: 04-Mar-2022, Manuscript No. PACO-22-17047; Editor assigned: 07-Mar-2022, PreQC No PACO-22-17047 (PQ); Reviewed: 21-Mar-2022, QC No. PACO-22-17047; Revised: 28-Mar-2022, Manuscript No. PACO-22-17047 (R); Published: 04-Apr-2022, DOI: 10.35248/2167-0374.7.150

Citation: Zahbi M (2022) Brief Note on Ethics in Pharmacy. Pharm Anal Chem. 7:150.

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endeavor to provide the best service to their patients. This includes update with new knowledge that could affect their decision and the trust held by the pharmacy profession for positive outcomes to promote the health of the general public. The ethical guidelines should be underpin every action that a pharmacist that takes throughout their workday, in such a way that the ethical decision-making becomes a second nature to the pharmacist and the optimal decisions are made on a consistent basis.

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