

# **Pharmaceutical Ethics**

- 1. Ethics:** it means moral principles. It is a science of moral duty.  
*Or* Rules by which a profession regulates actions and sets standard for all its members.
- 2. Pharmaceutical ethics:** the ethics in relation to pharmacy profession is called pharmaceutical ethics.
- 3. Morality:** morality means good conduct or behavior and consciousness.
- 4. Law:** law is defined as, the rules of human conduct binding to all persons in a state or nation.

<b>Law</b>	<b>Ethics</b>
Rules of human conduct binding to all persons in a state or nation.	Rules by which a profession regulates actions and sets standard for all its members.
If law is broken, a violator may be subjected to punishment, a fine or imprisonment	If rules are broken, the professional body may subject the violator to loss professional privileges.
Standards of Law	Standards of Conduct
Law may prevent one from causing injury to other. But it can't force him to help his neighbor in hours of need	Helping neighbors is the function of ethics.
Selling misbranded or adulterated drug is prevented by law	Selling medicines at cheaper rate than that of the fellow pharmacist in his area is not ethical

# **CODE OF PHARMACEUTICAL ETHICS**

The code of pharmaceutical ethics is formulated by PCI for the guidance of Indian pharmacist. The code of pharmaceutical ethics helps to guide the pharmacist as to how he should conduct himself in relation to:

His job

His trade

His profession (Pharmacy)

Medical profession

# **PHARMACIST IN RELATION TO HIS JOB**

## **1. Scope of Pharmaceutical Services:**

- When premises are registered under statutory requirements and opened as a pharmacy, a reasonably comprehensive pharmaceutical service should be provided.
- This involves the supply of commonly required medicines of this nature without undue delay.
- It also involves willingness to furnish emergency supplies at all times.

## **2. Conduct of Pharmacy**

- The condition in a pharmacy should be such as to preclude avoidable risk or error or of accidental contamination in the preparation, dispensing and supply of medicines.
- The appearance of the premises should reflect the professional character of the pharmacy.
- It should be clear to the public that the practice of pharmacy is carried out in the establishment.
- Signs, notices, descriptions, wording on business, stationary and related indications, should be restrained in size, design and terms.

### **3. Handling of Prescriptions:**

- When a prescription is presented for dispensing. It should be received by a pharmacist without any discussion or comment over it regarding the merits and demerits of its therapeutic efficiency.
- The Pharmacist should not even show any expression on his face of alarm or astonishment upon the receipt of a prescription; as such things may cause anxiety in patients or their agents and may lose their faith on physician.

- Any question on a prescription should be answered with every caution and care; it should neither offend a patron nor should it disclose any information, which might have been intentionally, withheld from him.
- It is not within the privilege of a Pharmacist to add, omit or substitute any ingredient or alter the composition of a prescription without the consent of the prescriber, unless the change is emergent or is demanded purely by the technique of the pharmaceutical art and does not cause any alteration in the therapeutic action of the recipe.

- In case of any obvious error in it due to any omission, incompatibility or overdose, the prescription should be referred back to the prescriber for correction or approval of the change suggested.
- While such an act is imperative in the best interest of the patient, in no case should it be done in a manner, which may hamper the reputation of the prescriber concerned.
- In matter of refilling prescriptions a pharmacist should solely be guided by the instructions of the prescriber and he should advise patients to use medicines or remedies strictly in accordance with the intention of the physician as noted on the prescription.

#### **4. Handling of Drugs:**

- All possible care should be taken to dispense a prescription correctly by weighing and measuring all ingredients in correct proportions by the help of scale and measures: visual estimations must be avoided.
- Always use drugs and medicinal preparations of standard quality available. He should never fill his prescriptions with spurious, sub-standard and unethical preparations.
- A Pharmacist should be very Judicious in dealing with drugs and medicinal preparations used for addiction or any other abusive purposes.

## **5. Apprentice Pharmacists:**

- While in-charge of a dispensary, drugstore or hospital pharmacy where apprentice pharmacists are admitted for practical training, a pharmacist should see that the trainees are given full facilities for their work so that on the completion of their training they have acquired sufficient technique and skill to make themselves dependable pharmacists.
- No certificate or credentials should be granted unless the above criterion is attained and the recipient has proved himself worthy of the same.

# 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,

# **Pharmacist 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

**PHARMACIST IN RELATION TO 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.*

**Thank You.**