

CODE OF PHARMACEUTICAL ETHICS

I. Introduction :-

The code of ethics, formulated by the Pharmacy Council of India for the guidance of the Indian Pharmacists is meant to guide the pharmacists as to how he should conduct himself, his patrons & general public, his colleagues, members of the medical & other health professionals.

II. Profession of Pharmacy :-

1. The profession of pharmacy is noble in its ideas & pious in character.
2. Apart from being a career for earning a livelihood, there must be an attitude of service & sacrifice in the interest of suffering humanities.
3. In handling, selling, distributing, compounding & dispensing of medical substances, including poisons & potent drugs, a pharmacist in collaboration with medical men & others is endowed with the responsibility of safeguarding the health of the people.
4. The pharmacists must understand their responsibility & fulfill their duties honorably keeping in mind the well being of society.
5. Standards of professional conduct for pharmacy are necessary in the public interest to ensure an efficient pharmaceutical service.
6. Every pharmacist should strive to avoid any act or omission which would prejudice the giving of services or impair confidence in any respect for pharmacists as a body.
7. They should at all times, be ready to assist the colleagues with information & service.
8. The pharmacist must be a good citizen & must uphold & defend the laws of the state & the nation.

III. Pharmacist in relation to his job :-

1. When premises are registered under statutory requirements and opened as a pharmacy, extensive pharmaceutical services should be provided.
2. This involves the supply of commonly required medicines without undue delay & furnishes emergency supplies, at all times.
3. The appearance of the place should reflect the professional character of pharmacy & indicate to the public that the practice of the pharmacy is carried out in the establishment.
4. They should be qualified pharmacists having personal control over the Pharmacy.

(a) Handling of Prescriptions

- (i) When a prescription is presented for dispensing, it should be received by a pharmacist without any comment or discussion over it, regarding merits & demerits of its therapeutic efficiency.
- (ii) It is not within the capacity of the pharmacist to add, omit or substitute any ingredient or alter the composition of the prescription without the consent of the prescriber.
- (iii) In case of any obvious error in it due to any omissions, it should be referred back to the prescriber for correction.
- (iv) When such an act is necessary, it should neither offend the customer nor affect the reputation of the prescriber.

(b) Handling of Drugs

- (i) Prescription should be correctly dispensed with drugs of standard quality.
- (ii) All the ingredients must be weighed correctly and must be in exact proportion.

IV. Pharmacist in relation to his trade :-

1. Price Structure: Price charge to customers should be fair & must be in accordance to the quality & quantity of drugs, including his compounding charges.
2. Fair trade practice: No attempts should be made to get business by unethical and cut throat competitions, labels trade market & signs symbols of others should not imitated.
3. Purchase of Drugs: Always standard drugs must be purchased from reputable & genuine

sources.

4. Hawking of Drugs: Hawking of drugs & medicines should not be encouraged nor should any attempt be made to get orders for such substance from door to door. Pharmacies & drug stores should not practice the method of "self servicing" or counter sales with out the qualified person. They should discourage self medication, which is dangerous & highly undesirable.

5. Advertising & Display: A pharmacist should not advertise or display in his premise, in the press, elsewhere, regarding the sale of the medicines which claim to cure & any other advertisements or display containing:

- (a) Symptoms of ill health.
- (b) A guarantee of therapeutic efficiency.
- (c) An appeal to fear.
- (d) An offer to refund money paid.
- (e) Any incentive schemes.
- (f) Any reference to a medical practitioner or a hospital.
- (g) A reference to sexual weakness, premature aging or loss of virility.
- (h) Any reference to condemn the products of similar nature of others.

V. Pharmacist in relation to medical profession :-

1. Under no circumstances, pharmacist should practice medicine i.e. diagnosing diseases & prescribing remedies. However in case of emergencies & accidents a pharmacist may render first aid to victim.

2. No pharmacist should recommend a medical practitioner, in particular. Pharmacist should be never entering in to secret arrangements with practitioner to offer them commission by recommending his dispensary or drug store. He should maintain strictly the professional secrecy, unless required to do so by the law.

3. The pharmacist must be a law abiding citizen & must fulfill the provisions of the pharmaceutical & other laws & regulations. He should have relationship with his own professional organizations. He should maintain the dignity, decorum, decency & propriety of his profession.