

INTRODUCTION

The pharmacist is a healthcare professional who contributes to improving people's health, preventing disease and making good use of medicines.

When practicing their profession, pharmacists should endeavor to pursue excellence in their individual practice. Their goal should be to attain ethical and professional standards that go beyond what is required from them by law.

An ethical code is a dynamic document that evolves with time, apace with changes in society and in the professional circumstances of each historical moment. For that reason, it appears advisable to carry out a review and adaptation of the first edition of the Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics published in 1998.

The current version is the result of a review process undertaken by experts from the fields of hospital pharmacy, ethics, bioethics, communication and the law.

This Code of Ethics expounds the principles and responsibilities of the pharmacist vis-à-vis the patient, other healthcare professionals and society at large.

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PATIENT-RELATED

RELATED WITH OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

SOCIETY-RELATED

1. The foremost responsibility of a pharmacist is to ensure the patient's wellbeing by adapting and following-up on their drug therapy with a view to improving or preserving their health and quality of life.
2. The patient has a right to benefit from the services of a pharmacist and their expertise in the realm of drug therapy, in all the different situations where medicines may be involved.
3. The pharmacist shall promote the patient's right to access effective and safe treatments.
4. The pharmacist shall respect the patient's dignity and shall promote the bioethical principle of personal autonomy ensuring that patients are involved in decisions affecting their health.
5. The pharmacist shall establish a personal relationship with the patient that humanizes and facilitates their professional interventions, and strive to build a trust-based relationship even if their beliefs and values are different from their patients'.
6. The pharmacist shall provide truthful and appropriate information to every patient.
7. The pharmacist will be jointly responsible with the patient for correct therapeutic adherence.
8. The pharmacist shall respect the patients' cultural and personal identity provided that it does not interfere with other people's rights or dignity.
9. The pharmacist shall protect the privacy and confidentiality of the patients' data, abiding by the rule of professional secrecy, except in cases provided for by the Law.
10. The pharmacist shall put the patient's benefit before their own personal, professional, economic or commercial interests.

11. Pharmacists shall keep their professional skills and competencies up-to-date.
12. Pharmacists shall not engage in practices, behaviors or working conditions that may compromise their Independence, objectivity or professional judgement.
13. Pharmacists shall collaborate with their colleagues and other health professionals and act with honesty and integrity in all their professional interactions, irrespective of the hierarchical relationship with their interlocutors. They shall also strive to avoid unfair competition.
14. Pharmacists shall respect the authority and actions of their colleagues and of other health professionals, even when the latter's beliefs and values differ from their own, provided that they do not constitute a threat to other people's dignity or essential rights.
15. Pharmacists must, in an objective manner and with due discretion, report to the relevant authorities any infringement of ethical and professional conduct norms that they may have observed in other colleagues or health professionals.
16. Pharmacists must in the practice of their profession contribute to the advancement of science and of the pharmaceutical profession by engaging in research into their discipline, following the established legal and ethical norms.
17. When carrying out teaching activities, pharmacists must ensure that they adhere to the highest academic standards and that they instill into their students the ethical principles inherent in the pharmaceutical profession.

18. Pharmacists shall be responsible for promoting and preserving the health of the population.
19. Pharmacists shall strive to ensure that healthcare resources are distributed equitably following objective and transparent criteria, particularly in the context of budgetary restrictions.
20. Pharmacists shall participate in clinical procedures in order to guarantee that they are performed safely and shall report any problems related to pharmacotherapy, with any corrective action being decided by the entire multidisciplinary care team.
21. Pharmacists shall comply with all legal and regulatory obligations. They will suggest changes to existing laws or regulations when, according to technical or scientific criteria, such changes may be beneficial to patients and to the pharmaceutical profession as a whole.
22. Pharmacists shall be free to exercise their right to conscientious objection. They must always inform the authorities about their wish to claim this right so that the patient can still avail themselves of the pharmaceutical intervention in question.
23. Pharmacists shall refrain from contributing to or participating in professional practices or interventions whereby their knowledge and skills are put at the service of actions that may threaten a person's life, dignity or human rights.
24. Pharmacists shall promote the protection of the environment, advocating for appropriate waste disposal practices and fostering environmental education.