

PHARMACIST'S CODE OF ETHICS



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FOREWARD

Ethics is the science of morals or moral philosophy. All written or unwritten principles which are accepted in any profession as the basis of proper behaviour constitute of ethics of the profession. Law and ethics may differ in the sense that while law is enforced by the state, a code of ethics is only morally binding. The law itself has a basis in ethics; in general, it reflects the moral standard of the community.

The code of ethics on pharmacy practice is intended to set the standard of professional behaviour for all the Pharmacists. This is because in any organised profession, more than mere existence of an intellectual discipline is necessary.

Ever since the formation of the Pharmacy Council there has been a growing concern about the need to maintain and, if possible, improve the standard of moral conduct in Pharmacists. The advantage of having a written code was recognised but nothing positive emerged until recently.

A proposal for a write-up on ethical conduct was made by the Pharmacy Council on 14th January, 1988. A Sub-Committee was formed and a written document was prepared by them. The document was adopted by the Council on 4th July, 1988. The document so adopted is reproduced for the information, application and understanding of all Pharmacists. It would, I hope, help improve the level of awareness of Pharmacists about their professional responsibility to the community.

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