



PHARMACIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

PHARMACY COUNCIL OF BANGLADESH



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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.



Syed Hasan Ahmed
President
Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh

Pharmacist's Code of Ethics

This is a guide to the pharmacists in their relationship with the patients, fellow practitioners and other health professionals and the public. A pharmacist should realise that ultimate success of the health profession largely depends how effectively the pharmacist has been able to make, store and dispense the drug to the public.

- (1) Pharmacist's prime concern shall be for the welfare of both patients and public.
 - (a) **Safety** -
 - (i) The pharmacists should take all reasonable steps to ensure that working conditions are so arranged that the safety of the public and the people working in the premises is protected.
 - (ii) Dispensing procedures should be adopted which will aim at preventing dispensing errors.
 - (iii) The pharmacists should not purchase, sell or supply any medicinal product where there is reason to doubt the safety or quality.
 - (iv) The pharmacists should exercise his professional judgement in controlling the purchase of unnecessary and excessive quantities of medicines.
 - (b) **Environment** - The pharmacists should comply with the guidelines which are appropriate to field of work.

All premises where medicinal products are manufactured, stored, sold or supplied should be maintained in a good state and precaution should be taken against the entrance and harbour of animals, birds and insects. The premises should be maintained in a clean and tidy condition.

- (c) **Efficacy of Medical Products** - The pharmacists should not give impression to a purchaser that a medical product is efficacious when he has reason to believe it is not.
- (d) **Efficient Service to the Community** - (i) When providing service to the community the pharmacists should ensure that the service is efficient and meets the reasonable needs of those whom he serves.
- (ii) The pharmacists should not substitute any other product for specifically named product even if he believes that the therapeutic effect and the quality of other products are identical.
- (iii) The pharmacists should do everything reasonable within his power to assist a person in need of emergency medical treatment.
- (iv) The pharmacists should not deviate from the practitioners instructions when dispensing the prescription except when necessary to protect the patient.
- (e) **The Sale of Medical Products Liable to Abuse** - The pharmacists should apply additional control over sale of medicinal products known to be likely to cause abuse of such products.
- (2) The pharmacists shall uphold the honour and dignity of the profession and not engage in activity which may bring the profession into disrepute.
- (a) **Honour and Dignity of the Profession** - The pharmacists should not bring to the profession disrepute by acting unlawfully or disregarding the reasonably accepted standards of behaviour both within and outside his professional practice.

- (b) **Use of Name, Title or Qualification** - The pharmacists should not use or permit to use of his qualifications or his position as a pharmacist to mislead or defraud. He should not allow others to use his name, qualifications, address or photograph in connection with the distribution to the public of any medicinal product or the provision of his professional services.
- (3) The pharmacists shall at all times have regard to the laws and regulations applicable to pharmaceutical practice and maintain a high standard of professional conduct. The pharmacist shall avoid any act or omission which would impair confidence in the pharmaceutical profession. When a pharmaceutical service is provided a pharmacist shall ensure that it is efficient.
- (a) **Code of Practice** - The pharmacists should be aware of and comply with accepted code of practice relevant to his field of practice.
- (b) **Professional Responsibility** - As an independent practitioner a pharmacist should act within his professional competence and be personally responsible for his decision.
- (4) The pharmacists shall respect confidentiality of information relating to patients and their families. Such information shall not be disclosed to anyone without the patient's or appropriate guardian's consent except where it is in the patient's interest to do so.
- (5) The pharmacists shall keep abreast of the progress of pharmaceutical knowledge in order to maintain a high standard of professional competence related to his sphere of activity.

- (6) The pharmacists shall neither agree to practise under any condition of service which prevent his professional independence nor impose such conditions on other pharmacists.
- (7) Publicity for promotional service is permitted provided such publicity does not create discrimination between pharmacists and does not bring the profession into disrepute.
- (8) Pharmacists at all times shall endeavour to cooperate with professional colleagues and members of other health profession so that the patients and public may benefit.
- (9) **Quality Assurance and Manufacturing**
 - (i) Because of close integration between assurance and manufacturing both activities have been included in this section. There are however separate rules for pharmacists in quality control and manufacturing to be carried out independently but in cooperation.
 - (ii) There should be comprehensive system so designed, documented and implemented and so furnished with personnel and equipment as to provide assurance that the products will be of quality appropriate to their intended use. The attainment of that quality objective requires the involvement and commitment of pharmacists responsible for both quality control and manufacturing.
 - (iii) The objective of quality assurance is achieved when the process have been defined which when followed will yield a product which complies with its specification, and when the finished product:

- a) contains the correct ingredients in correct preparations.
- b) is of purity required.
- c) has been correctly processed according to the defined procedures.
- d) is enclosed in the proper container.
- e) bears the correct label, stored and distributed so that quality is maintained.

(iv) Quality control pharmacist should achieve effective control of quality by ensuring that :

- a) Adequate facilities and staff are available for sampling for inspection and testing of raw materials, packaging materials, intermediate bulk and finished products and for the quality of the environment.
- b) Samples of raw materials, packaging materials, finished products and intermediate products are taken by personnel using methods approved under the direction of Quality Controller.
- c) Result of inspection and testing of materials and intermediate bulk or finished products are formally assessed against specifications by the quality control before the materials are released for use or products are released for further processing, sale or supply; product assessment should include a review and evaluation of relevant manufacturing documentation.
- d) Sufficient reference samples of products are retained (where possible in final pack) to permit future examination if necessary.

- (v) The pharmacist responsible for manufacturing should implement the basic requirements of good manufacturing practices by ensuring that:
- a) The manufacturing process is designed before commencing of any activity.
 - b) Necessary facilities and resources are provided including
 - i) appropriate trained personnel.
 - ii) adequate premises and space.
 - iii) suitable equipment.
 - iv) approved procedures.
 - v) correct materials.
 - vi) suitable storage and transport.
 - vii) store of representative samples of each batch produced.
 - c) Procedures are written in instructional form in clear and unambiguous language.
 - d) Operators are trained to carry out procedures correctly.
 - e) Records are made during manufacture including packaging to demonstrate that all steps required by the defined procedures were in fact taken and the quality and the quantity produced were those expected.
 - f) Records of manufacture and distribution which enable the history of a batch to be traced and retained in legible and acceptable form.
 - g) A system is available to recall any batch of product should that be necessary.
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LAW AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

in its 38th General Meeting, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh has constituted a committee entitled Law and Ethics committee to exercise the statutory powers of the Council.

Law and Ethics committee consists of the following members:

1. Dr. A. M. M. Khan: Chairman Ex-officio
Vice President, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh
2. Dr. Md. Jahangir: Member Ex-officio Director,
Directorate of Drugs administration.
3. Mr. M. K. Choudhury: Member, Pharmacist.
4. Mr. Nasser Shahrear Zahedee: Member,
Pharmacist.
5. Mr. Fakharuddin Chowdhury: Member,
Manufacturing Pharmacist.

The responsibilities laid on the Law and Ethics Committee are:

1. To set guidelines for practising the ethical norms of Pharmacy profession and to take necessary measures for its implementation.
2. To interpret the aforesaid guidelines and settle differences, if any, pertaining to the legal and ethical aspects of practising Pharmacy.
3. To recommend to the regulatory authorities or to Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh for taking action against establishment or individual as appropriate, at the event of necessity.

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