Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**PREAMBLE**

Pharmacists are healthcare professionals who contribute toward improving health, preventing disease and making good use of medicines.

A pharmacist’s attitude in his/her professional practice must be one of striving for excellence in individual practice for the purpose of achieving the ethical and professional values surpassing legal standards.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**PREAMBLE**

Setting out a code of ethics is a dynamic process which takes shape over the course of time in keeping with the social changes and the actual professional situation at the point in time in history. Therefore, it seems advisable to now carry out a revision and adaptation of the initial version of the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists dating from 1998.

This Code of Ethics publically sets out the principles and responsibilities of pharmacists in relation to patients, other healthcare professionals and society as a whole.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**CONCERNING PATIENTS**

1. A pharmacist’s prime responsibility is to achieve the patient’s well-being by means of providing suitable drug treatment and following up on the same for the purpose of improving or preserving the patient’s health and quality of life.
2. A patient is entitled to the pharmacist’s intervention, as an expert in drug therapy, in any of the processes in which medicine is involved.
3. A pharmacist promotes the patient’s entitlement to be provided with safe, effective treatments.
4. A pharmacist respects the patient’s dignity and promotes the bioethical principle of individual autonomy so that the patient may take part in the decisions having a bearing on their own health.
5. A pharmacist establishes individualized communication with the patient which humanizes and facilitates a pharmacist’s professional practice and fosters a relationship of trust with persons even of different beliefs and values.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**CONCERNING PATIENTS**

1. A pharmacist provides treatment information which is truthful and well-suited to each individual patient.
2. A pharmacist takes joint responsibility along with the patient in proper adherence to treatment.
3. A pharmacist respects the cultural and personal differences of patients, provided that they not infringe upon the dignity and rights of others.
4. A pharmacist safeguards the privacy and confidentiality of the personal details of the patients, maintaining professional secrecy, save the cases for which provision is made under law.
5. A pharmacist places the patient’s benefit before his/her own personal, professional, economic or commercial interests.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**CONCERNING OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

11. A pharmacist keeps professional skills and abilities up to date.

12. A pharmacist avoids work-related practices, conduct or conditions which may be detrimental to his/her independence, objectivity or professional judgment.

13. A pharmacist cooperates with colleagues and other healthcare professionals by acting honestly and with integrity in all professional relations, regardless of the hierarchical relationship among them and avoids unfair competition.

14. A pharmacist respects the authority and actions of colleagues and other healthcare professionals, even when the beliefs and values thereof differ from his/her own, provided that they not infringe upon the dignity and rights of others.

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**CONCERNING OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

15. A pharmacist must objectively inform the respective instances, with all due discretion, as to any violations of the standards of ethics and professional competence which have been observed thereby in other colleagues or healthcare professionals.

16. A pharmacist strives to contribute to the advancement of science and the profession by researching in the discipline in which working in keeping with the established ethical and legal standards.

17. A pharmacist who carries out teaching activities as part of his/her professional practice has the duty of ensuring good teaching quality, making special mention of the ethical principles inseparably intrinsic to the pharmaceutical profession.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**CONCERNING SOCIETY AS A WHOLE**

18. A pharmacist takes responsibility for promoting and preserving the improvement of the health of the population.

19. A pharmacist achieves an equitable allocation of the healthcare resources on the basis of objective, transparent criteria, particularly when the same are limited.

20. A pharmacist takes part in the care-providing processes for the purpose of ensuring the safety and the process of furnishing information concerning the problems related to the drug therapy, determining jointly with his/her colleagues whatever corrective measures and actions aimed at improvement are necessary.

21. A pharmacist respects the provisions of law and regulatory standards. A pharmacist cooperates in the modification thereof when, in keeping with technical or scientific criteria, a contribution is made toward better benefitting patients and the profession.

Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

**CONCERNING SOCIETY AS A WHOLE**

22. A pharmacist’s responsibility and personal freedom entitle him/her to exercise the right of conscientious objection. In any case, a pharmacist must inform the competent authority thereof so that the patient will not be deprived of pharmaceutical care.

23. A pharmacist refrains from contributing to, advising or taking part in those professional practices or measures in which his/her knowledge and skills are placed at the service of acts which are an attempt on human life, personal human dignity or human rights.

24. A pharmacist is respectful of the surroundings and environment in relation to medicines, promoting policies for suitable disposal of waste and educating others in environmental protection.

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Code of Ethics for Pharmacists V.2

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