

A wooden gavel and a silver stethoscope are positioned on a white surface. The gavel is on the right, and the stethoscope is on the left. The background is a light gray gradient with some white diagonal lines on the right side.

# **CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACIST**

**Lecture 2**

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# ETHICS AND PHARMACY

- ▶ In the case of pharmaceutical care, the goal is to benefit patients through the appropriate utilization of pharmaceuticals , using the essentials knowledge that should always accompany such clinical intervention, the practitioner should not only be clinically competent but should also adhere to the law, professionally determined code of ethics

# CODE OF ETHICS

- ▶ The code of ethics sets out the principles that you must follow as a pharmacist.
- ▶ The code is the society core guidance on the conduct, practice and professional performance expected of you.
- ▶ It is designed to meet pharmaceutical legislations of that nation.

# HISTORY OF CODE OF ETHICS

- ▶ Philadelphia college of pharmacy adopted **FIRST** code of ethics in 1848, since the first legislation of the American pharmacy code of ethics in 1852, revised in 1922 to 1994.
- ▶ ( principles of code of ethics of the 1994 mentioned first ).
- ▶ In the early 2000, two new accountabilities were incorporated into the code of ethics for the pharmacists.

## • **Code of Ethics for Pharmacists**

- Pharmacists are health professionals who assist individuals in making the best use of medications. This Code, prepared and supported by pharmacists, is intended to state publicly the principles that form the fundamental basis of the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists.

- These principles, based on moral obligations and virtues, are established to guide pharmacists in relationships with patients, health professionals, and society.

- **The principles of 1994 revised pharmacist code of ethics include**
- **I. A pharmacist respects the covenantal relationship between the patient and pharmacist.**
- a pharmacist has moral obligations in response to the gift of trust received from society. In return for this gift, a pharmacist promises to help individuals achieve optimum benefit from their medications to maintain their trust.

- **II. A pharmacist promotes the good of every patient in a caring, compassionate, and confidential manner.**
- A pharmacist places concern for the well-being of the patient at the center of professional practice.



- A pharmacist is devoted to protecting the dignity of the patient. With a caring attitude and a compassionate spirit, a pharmacist focuses on serving the patient in a private and confidential manner.

- **III. A pharmacist respects the autonomy and dignity of each patient.**
- A pharmacist promotes the right of self-determination and recognizes individual self-worth by encouraging patients to participate in decisions about their health.

- A pharmacist communicates with patients in terms that are understandable. In all cases, a pharmacist respects personal and cultural differences among patients.

- **IV. A pharmacist acts with honesty and integrity in professional relationships.**
- A pharmacist has a duty to tell the truth. A pharmacist avoids discriminatory practices, behavior or work conditions that impair professional judgment. the pharmacist should be accurate and impartial when teaching or providing information to avoid misleading.

- **V. A pharmacist maintains professional competence.**
- A pharmacist has a duty to maintain knowledge and abilities as new medications, devices, and technologies become available and as health information advances.

- **VI. A pharmacist respects the values and abilities of colleagues and other health professionals.**
- When appropriate, a pharmacist asks for the consultation of colleagues or other health professionals or refers the patient. A pharmacist acknowledges that colleagues and other health professionals may differ in the beliefs and values they apply to the care of the patient.

## **VII. A pharmacist serves individual, community, and societal needs.**

- The primary obligation of a pharmacist is to individual patients . However the obligations of a pharmacist may at times extend beyond the individual to the community and society .
- Example/ a police man with allergy and prescribed a sedative antihistamine although this benefit him in his disease but may decrease his ability to perform his job and thus safety of society may be affected.

## VIII. Pharmacist seek justice in distribution of health resources.

- When health resources are allocated , a pharmacist is fair and equitable balancing the needs of patients and society. The pharmacist must make best use of the resources available to him/ her. The pharmacist should avoid bias in deciding who deserve to be treated, and one of the most important ethical issues is to provide care without regard of race, religion or nationality.

- \* adopted by the membership of the American Pharmacists Association October 27, 1994.



# PROBLEMS AND DRAWBACK WITH CODE OF ETHICS

1. Short code of ethics include ethical principles without guidance on how to apply them.
2. Long detailed code of ethics , it take away choice and judgment for professional, inhibiting the application of decision making skills.
3. Requires continues updating to keep in with advancing practices.
4. Code of ethics is rarely of help in resolving conflicts , especially involving one ethical goal against another( between law and ethics for e.g dispensing POM without RX in emergency case)

- ▶ **Principles of the code of ethics**  
**Royal pharm society ,UK**

- ▶ The code is founded seven principles
- ▶ **Make the care of patient your first concern**
- ▶ **Exercise your professional judgment in the interests of patients and public**

- ▶ **Show respect for others**
- ▶ **Encourage patients to participate in decisions about their care**
- ▶ **Develop your professional knowledge and competence**
- ▶ **Be honest and trustworthy.**
- ▶ **Take responsibility for your working practices.**



- ▶ **1-Make the care of patient your first concern**
- ▶ **You must**
- ▶ Take steps to safeguard the well-being of patient particularly children
- ▶ Seek all relevant information required to assess and individuals need and provide appropriate treatment and care
- ▶ Be satisfied as to the integrity and quality of products to be supplied to patients

## 2-Exercise your professional judgment in the interests of patients and public

- Make sure that your professional judgment is not impaired by personal or commercial interest .
- Make best use of the resources available for you.
- Be prepared to challenge the judgment of other healthcare colleagues if you have reason to believe that their decision could compromise the safety or care of patients.

## ▶ **3-Show respect for others**

### ▶ **In practice you must**

- ▶ Recognize diversity and respect the cultural differences and beliefs of others.
- ▶ Respect and protect the dignity and privacy of others
- ▶ Maintain proper professional boundaries in the relationships you have with patients and others.

## 4- Encourage patients to participate in decisions about their care

- ▶ Patients have a right to be involved in decision about their treatment and care .
- ▶ successful partnership working requires effective communication and an ability to identify the individual needs of patients.

## 5-Develop your professional knowledge and competence

- ▶ At all stages of your working life you must ensure that your knowledge ,skills and performance are of a high quality, up to date and relevant to your field of practice.
- ▶ Follow the up date documents and references in your field



## 6-Be honest and trustworthy.

- ▶ Uphold public trust and confidence in your profession by acting with honesty and integrity
- ▶ Avoid conflicts of interest **A conflict of interest (COI) is a situation in which a person or organization is involved in multiple interests**

- ▶ **(financial, emotional, or otherwise), one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation of the individual or organization)** and declare any personal or professional interests to those who may be affected .
- ▶ Do not accept gift or hospitality.
- ▶ Be accurate and impartial when teaching others and when providing information or preparation of compounding drugs.
- ▶ Respond honestly, openly and courteously to complaints and criticism.

# 7-Take responsibility for your working practices

- ▶ Communicate and work effectively with colleagues from your own and other professions to assure of a team work.
- ▶ Take responsibility for all work done by you or under your supervision.
- ▶ Be satisfied that appropriate standard operation procedure exist and are adhered to.

- ▶ What is source of moral judgments?
- ▶ Answer
- ▶ Pharmacist might turn to the code of ethics of the profession for e.g APhA
- ▶ for A pharmacist working in hospital might take in consideration ethical code of physicians and hospital.
- ▶ Finally the pharmacist may confront ethical dilemmas involving a particular patient who has moral standards that he/she feels should be the foundation of moral judgments involving his or her medication.

# CASE ANALYSIS

- ▶ What is in the best interest of the patient
- ▶ Eighteen months ago J.W. had a car accident that resulted in head trauma. After hospitalization, J.W. responded well but he suffered from grand mal seizure which was not completely controlled with phenytoin sodium and valproic acid. J.W. returned to work in a roofing company. When he returned to the pharmacy to refill, he told the pharmacist that he returned to work in the roofing company. The pharmacist was surprised that J.W. is not completely seizure free even when he is taking medicine. The pharmacist asked J.W. if his employer knew about his situation (possibility of seizure) and J.W. answered NO WAY.

## DISCUSSION OF THE CASE

▶ When returning to APhA code ethics state

- **A pharmacist promotes the good of every patient in a caring, compassionate, and confidential manner.**
- **Make the care of patient your first concern**

▶ So the pharmacist not only supposed to promote his patients good health but also to do so in confidential manner, so pharmacist problem is if he should break a confidence in order to promote his patient good.

## DISCUSSION OF THE CASE

- ▶ AMA (American medical association) insist in such cases that even if the patients interest would be better served by breaking confidence. the confidence should still kept unless the patient gives permission to disclose.