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PHARMACEUTICAL JURISPRUDENCE

UNIT 5

TOPIC :

- **Code of Pharmaceutical ethics** Definition, Pharmacist in relation to his job, trade, medical profession and his profession, Pharmacist's oath



Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics

- The Code of Pharmaceutical Ethics is a set of moral and professional principles that guide the behavior, conduct, and duties of pharmacists in the practice of pharmacy.
- It ensures that pharmacists maintain integrity, honesty, and professionalism while serving patients, the medical profession, and society.

The code is guided by the Pharmacy Act, 1948, and various professional bodies like the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI).

Pharmacist in Relation to His Job

Focus: Professional competence, accuracy, honesty, and patient safety.

- Professional Competence: Maintain updated knowledge of drugs, formulations, dispensing, and storage.
- Accuracy & Diligence: Check prescriptions, verify doses, labels, and prevent errors.
- Honesty & Integrity: Avoid malpractices; maintain patient confidentiality; provide truthful advice.
- Accountability: Accept responsibility for errors; report adverse effects; follow legal regulations.
- Continuous Learning: Update knowledge on new drugs, treatment protocols, and regulations.
- Patient-Centric: Ensure rational drug use, counseling, and patient safety.

Pharmacist in Relation to Trade

Focus: Ethical, fair, and transparent commercial practices.

- Fair Pricing: Sell drugs at reasonable prices; comply with DPCO/NLEM.
- Ethical Sourcing: Procure medicines from licensed manufacturers/wholesalers only.
- Transparency: Display prices, expiry dates, and labeling clearly.
- Commercial Integrity: Avoid profiteering, unethical promotion, and conflicts of interest.
- Legal Compliance: Follow trade and drug-related regulations.

Pharmacist in Relation to Medical Profession

Focus: Collaboration with doctors and support for rational therapy.

- Collaboration: Work with doctors to ensure correct dispensing and therapy.
- Advisory Role: Provide information on dosage, interactions, contraindications, and proper usage.
- Prescription Respect: Do not alter prescriptions without the prescriber's consent.
- Ethical Referral: Refer patients to qualified physicians when needed.
- Rational Therapy Support: Promote evidence-based and rational use of medicines.

Pharmacist in Relation to His Profession

Focus: Upholding dignity, scientific responsibility, and ethical conduct.

- Professional Conduct: Maintain honor and dignity of pharmacy profession.
- Scientific Responsibility: Make decisions based on scientific knowledge, not commercial interests.
- Legal Compliance: Follow Pharmacy Act, Drugs & Cosmetics Act, NDPS Act, and other regulations.
- Education & Mentorship: Train juniors and participate in continuing professional development.
- Ethical Practice: Avoid activities that discredit the profession.

Pharmacist's Oath

- The Pharmacist's Oath is a solemn pledge taken by pharmacists to uphold ethical, professional, and legal standards in their practice. It emphasizes service to humanity, patient welfare, and integrity in the profession.
- The Pharmacist's Oath is a formal commitment to ethical conduct, professional responsibility, patient safety, and continuous learning in the field of pharmacy.
- It reflects the moral duties of pharmacists towards patients, the medical profession, society, and their own professional growth.

Key Principles of the Oath

Principle	Explanation
Service to Humanity	Prioritize patient welfare and public health in all actions.
Professional Integrity	Maintain honesty, honor, and ethical conduct in pharmacy practice.
Law-Abiding	Comply with the Pharmacy Act, Drugs & Cosmetics Act, NDPS Act, and other regulations.
Patient Safety	Dispense medicines accurately, prevent errors, and ensure rational drug use.
Confidentiality	Protect patient information and prescription details.
Continuous Learning	Update knowledge about drugs, treatments, and healthcare advancements.

Purpose of the Pharmacist's Oath

1. To ensure pharmacists practice ethically and responsibly.
2. To maintain public trust in the pharmacy profession.
3. To remind pharmacists of their obligation to patient safety and welfare.
4. To promote lifelong learning and professional growth.
5. To uphold the dignity and credibility of the pharmacy profession.