



## **UNIT-I**

### **PHARMACEUTICAL JURISEPRUDENCE**

#### **Pharmaceutical Ethics Introduction :-**

- Ethics may be defined as “the code of moral principles” or as “the science of morals”.
- The conduct of individuals in any society is governed by governmental controls as well as social customs and duties.
- The code of ethics framed by the Pharmacy Council of India is meant to guide the Indian Pharmacist as to how he should conduct himself in relation to himself, his patrons and the general public, co-professionals, and members of the medical and other health professions.
- Profession of Pharmacy is a noble profession as it is indirectly healing the persons to get well with the help of medical practitioners and other coprofessionals.
- Government has restricted the practice of Pharmacy to only Profession Pharmacists i.e registered Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948.

PCI framed the following ethics for Indian Pharmacists, which may be categorised under the following headings:

1. Pharmacist in relation to his job.
2. Pharmacist in relation to his trade.
3. Pharmacist in relation to medical profession.
4. Pharmacist in relation to his profession.

#### **1. Pharmacist in relation to his job:**

A pharmacist should keep the following things in relation to his job.

(i) Pharmaceutical services Pharmacy premises (medicine shops) should be registered.

Emergency medicines and common medicines should be supplied to the patients without any delay.

(ii) Conduct of the Pharmacy Error of accidental contamination in the preparation, dispensing and supply of medicines should be checked in a pharmacy.

(iii) Handling of Prescription A pharmacist should receive a prescription without any comment on it that may cause anxiety to the patient. No part of the prescription should be changed without the consent of the prescriber. In case of changing the prescription should be referred back to the prescriber.

(iv) Handling of drugs A prescription should always be dispensed correctly and carefully with standard quality drug or excipients. Drugs that have abusive potential should not be supplied to any one.

(v) Apprentice Pharmacist Experienced pharmacists should provide all the facilities for practical training of the apprentice pharmacists. Until and unless the apprentice proves himself or herself certificate should not be granted to him / her.

## **2. Pharmacist in relation to his trade:**

Following are the provisions which pharmacist should keep in mind while dealing with his trade:

(i) Price structure The prices charged should be fair keeping with the quality, quantity and labour or skill required.

(ii) Fair trade practice Fair practice should be adopted by a pharmacist in the trade without any attempt to capture other pharmacist's business. If a customer brings a prescription (by mistake) which should be genuinely by some other pharmacy the pharmacist should refuse to accept the prescription. Imitation of copying of the labels, trade marks and other signs or symbols of other pharmacy should not be done.

(iii) Purchase of drugs Pharmacists should buy drugs from genuine and reputable sources.

(iv) Advertising and Displays The sale of medicines or medical appliances or display of materials in undignified style on the premises, in the press or elsewhere are prohibited.

## **3. Pharmacist in relation to medical profession:**

Following are the code of ethics of a pharmacist in relation to medical profession:

(i) Limitation of professional activity The professional activity of the medical practitioner as well as the pharmacists should be confined to their own field only. Medical practitioners should not possess drugs stores and pharmacists should not diagnose diseases and prescribe remedies. A pharmacist may, however, can deliver first aid to the victim in case of accident or emergency.

(ii) Cladenstine arrangement A pharmacist should not enter into a secret arrangement or contract with a physician by offering him any commission or any advantages.

(iii) Liasion with public. A pharmacist should always maintain proper link between physicians

and people. He should advise the physicians on pharmaceutical matters and should educate the people regarding health and hygiene. The pharmacist should keep himself / herself up-to-date with pharmaceutical knowledge from various journals or publications. Any information acquired by a pharmacist during his professional activities should not be disclosed to any third party until and unless required to do so by law.

**4. Pharmacist in relation to his profession:** Regarding to the profession the following code of ethics should be fulfilled.

(i) **Professional vigilance** A pharmacist must abide by the pharmaceutical laws and he/she should see that other pharmacists are abiding it.

(ii) **Law-abiding citizens** The pharmacists should have a fair knowledge of the laws of the country pertaining to food, drug, pharmacy, health, sanitation etc.

(iii) **Relationship with Professional Organizations** A pharmacist should be actively involved in professional organization, should advance the cause of such organizations.

(iv) **Decorum and Propriety** A pharmacist should not indulge in doing anything that goes against the decorum and propriety of Pharmacy Profession.

(v) **Pharmacists Oath** A young prospective pharmacist should feel no hesitation in assuming the following pharmacist's oath:

"I promise to do all I can to protect and improve the physical and moral well-being of society, holding the health and safety of my community above other considerations.

I shall uphold the laws and standards governing my profession, avoiding all forms of misinterpretation, and I shall safeguard the distribution of medical and potent substances.

Knowledge gained about patients, I shall hold in confidence and never divulge unless compelled

to do so by law.

I shall strive to perfect and enlarge my knowledge to contribute to the advancements of pharmacy and the public health.

I furthermore promise to maintain my honour in all transactions and by my conduct never bring discredit to myself or to my profession nor to do anything to diminish the trust reposed in my professional brethren.

May I prosper and live long in favour as I keep and hold to this, my Oath, but if violated these sacred promises, may the reverse be my lot."