

Pharmacy Act-1948 and Rules

Pharmacy Act, 1948

- The **Pharmacy Act, 1948** is an Act enacted by the Parliament of India to regulate the profession of pharmacy in the country.
- It provides a legal framework for the registration of pharmacists, regulation of pharmacy education, and the constitution of pharmacy councils at central and state levels.

Objectives of the Pharmacy Act, 1948

- The Pharmacy Act, 1948 was enacted to regulate the profession and practice of pharmacy in India.
- Its primary objectives are:
 1. To regulate and standardize pharmacy education across India.
 2. To ensure only qualified individuals practice pharmacy.
 3. To establish the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) and State Pharmacy Councils.
 4. To provide guidelines for the registration of pharmacists.
 5. To protect public health by ensuring the quality of dispensing and compounding of medicines.

Definitions (Section 2 of the Act)

- Important terms defined in the Act include:
 - **Pharmacist:** A person whose name is registered in the register maintained by a State Pharmacy Council.
 - **Approved Institution:** An educational institution recognized by PCI for imparting pharmacy education.
 - **Central Council:** Refers to the Pharmacy Council of India.
 - **State Council:** Refers to the State Pharmacy Council.
 - **Register:** An official record of pharmacists maintained by State Councils.

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)

Constitution (Section 3)

The Pharmacy Council of India is established by the Central Government and comprises:

1. Elected Members:

- 6 members elected by universities that offer pharmacy degrees.
- 1 member elected by the Medical Council of India.

2. **Nominated Members:**

- 6 members nominated by the Central Government, with relevant experience in pharmacy.

3. **Ex-officio Members:**

- Director General of Health Services (DGHS)
- Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)
- Director of the Central Drugs Laboratory
- A representative of the University Grants Commission (UGC)

4. **President and Vice-President:**

- Elected from among the council members.

Functions of PCI

- Prescribing minimum standards of education in pharmacy.
- Framing and implementing Education Regulations.
- Approving institutions for pharmacy education.
- Maintaining a Central Register of pharmacists.
- Conducting inspections of pharmacy colleges.
- Regulating professional conduct and ethical standards.
- Granting or withdrawing approval of pharmacy qualifications.

Education Regulations (Section 10 of the Pharmacy Act)

- The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) issues Education Regulations (ER) under Section 10 of the Pharmacy Act to ensure uniform and quality standards in pharmacy education.

Purpose

- To set minimum educational standards for becoming a registered pharmacist.
- To regulate the structure and quality of pharmacy courses nationwide.

Key Provisions

- **Minimum Qualification:** Requires a D.Pharm or B.Pharm for pharmacist registration.

- **Course Content and Duration:** Defines the duration, curriculum, practical training, and exam schemes for pharmacy courses.
- **Institutional Requirements:** Specifies standards for infrastructure and faculty qualifications in pharmacy colleges.

Compliance

- Only **PCI-approved institutions** can offer pharmacy courses.
- **Non-compliance** may lead to **disapproval**, making graduates **ineligible for registration**.

State and Joint State Pharmacy Councils (Section 19 and 20)

State Pharmacy Councils

Constitution (Section 19)

- Each state government establishes its own Pharmacy Council, comprising:

1. Elected Members:

- 6 registered pharmacists elected by their peers.
- 1 member elected by the State Medical Council.

2. Nominated Members:

- 5 members nominated by the State Government, including 3 qualified pharmacists.

3. Ex-officio Members:

- The chief administrative medical officer of the state.
- A government analyst under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Functions

- Registration and renewal of pharmacists in the state.
- Maintaining a register of pharmacists.
- Conducting inquiries and taking disciplinary action.
- Regulating professional behavior and compliance with legal standards.

Joint State Pharmacy Councils

- Two or more states can form a Joint State Pharmacy Council by mutual agreement.

Functions

- Same as a State Council, but covering multiple states.

- Maintains a joint register.
- Shares administrative responsibilities and resources.

Registration of Pharmacists under the Pharmacy Act (Sections 32, 32A, 33, 34)

1. First Register (Section 30)

- Prepared by a Registration Tribunal appointed by the State Government.
- Included practitioners already in practice when the Act commenced, based on their experience and qualifications.

2. Qualifications for Registration (Section 32)

- Applicants must:
 - Be 18 years or older.
 - Hold an approved pharmacy qualification (e.g., D.Pharm, B.Pharm).
 - Have passed an approved exam or possess relevant practical experience.
 - Be a resident or domiciled in the state.

3. Registration Types

- A. **Initial Registration:** For those practicing when the Act came into force; based on experience/ qualifications.
- B. **Subsequent Registration:** Requires approved pharmacy qualifications and application to the **State Pharmacy Council**.

4. Renewal of Registration

- Valid for a limited period (usually **5 years**).
- Requires periodic renewal with a prescribed fee.

5. Removal from Register

- Can occur due to:
 - Professional misconduct
 - Criminal conviction
 - **Non-payment** of renewal fees

6. Central Register (Section 34)



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