D.PHARM • SECOND YEAR

Community Pharmacy & Managem

CHAPTER 2

Professional Responsibilities of Community Pharmacists



ENGLISH CHAPTER NOTES

DIPLOMA IN PHARMACY

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

Community pharmacists connect people with healthcare through patient care, medicine services and safe practice.

1. Dispensing of Medicines



- Verify a valid, signed and dated prescription.
- Check drug name, dose, frequency, quantity and directions.
- Assess therapeutic appropriateness before dispensing.
- Select the correct medicine and label it accurately.
- Double-check for errors; computer systems can support checks.
- Protect privacy. Record prescriptions and patient interactions.

2. Patient Counseling and Education

- Explain dose, frequency and route of administration.
- Discuss possible side effects and the action to take.
- Explain food and drug interactions.
- Give medicine-specific advice on missed doses and overdose.
- Use simple spoken explanations and written educational materials.
- Encourage adherence to the agreed treatment regimen.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

3. Drug Information Services

Give evidence-based information to patients, physicians and other healthcare providers.

Cover:

- Medicine availability and cost
- Generic alternatives
- Drug compatibility and stability
- Storage conditions and shelf life

4. Monitoring and Reporting ADRs

ADR = Adverse Drug Reaction

Identify → Document → Report

- Recognize suspected ADRs and medication errors.
- Record the event clearly and use the appropriate reporting system.
- Participate in Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).
- Encourage patients to recognize and report suspected ADRs.

5. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

- Educate people about smoking cessation and immunization.
- Promote rational antibiotic use.
- Offer blood-pressure, blood-glucose and BMI screening within authorized scope.
- Give obesity counselling and refer when needed.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

6. Inventory Management and Procurement

- Keep suitable stock levels so medicines are available when needed.
- Check medicine quality and expiry dates.
- Remove expired products from usable stock.
- Maintain the required cold chain for temperature-sensitive medicines, such as vaccines and insulin.

7. Regulatory and Legal Compliance

- Follow the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.
- Meet pharmacy licensing requirements.
- Follow applicable narcotic and controlled-drug regulations.
- Keep the required controlled-substance records.

8. Pharmaceutical Waste Management

- Separate expired and unused medicines from saleable stock.
- Segregate waste correctly and use authorized disposal arrangements.
- Follow applicable pharmaceutical and biomedical waste rules.
- Safe disposal prevents environmental contamination.

Stock quality, legal compliance and safe disposal are all patient-safety responsibilities.

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