PHARM.D • YEAR 3

Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence

CHAPTER 2

Professional Ethics and Pharmaceutical Ethics

PPT CHAPTER COVER



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Professional ethics in pharmacy

Professional ethics are the principles and standards guiding responsible professional conduct.

In pharmacy, the patient's welfare and public health take priority over improper personal or commercial gain.



Ethical practice supports safe medicine use, trust, professional credibility and accountability.

It involves truthful communication, competent service, respect and careful handling of medicines and information.

Law sets enforceable requirements. Ethics also asks what a responsible professional ought to do. Ethical behaviour supports compliance, but does not guarantee immunity from legal responsibility.

Autonomy and beneficence

AUTONOMY —
RESPECT INFORMED CHOICE

Give understandable, accurate information about medicines.

Listen to the patient's concerns and support voluntary decisions within lawful care.

Do not pressure patients through fear, concealment or misleading claims.



BENEFICENCE —
ACT FOR THE PATIENT'S GOOD

Promote effective treatment, identify medicine-related problems and support adherence.

Consider the patient's needs, preferences and practical circumstances.

The aim is informed cooperation: provide professional guidance without taking away the patient's voice.



Non-maleficence and justice

NON-MALEFICENCE – AVOID HARM

Check prescriptions carefully, recognise interactions and clarify uncertainties before dispensing.

Avoid negligence, careless advice and unsafe omissions.

Refer matters beyond your competence.



JUSTICE – BE FAIR

Treat patients without discrimination based on wealth, gender, caste or background

Use transparent, fair practices and support equitable access to medicines.

Fairness does not mean identical treatment for everyone: different clinical needs may require different support.



Both principles guide everyday decisions at the pharmacy counter.

Confidentiality, fidelity and veracity

CONFIDENTIALITY

Protect patient information. Share it only with appropriate consent or another lawful justification.

Use private conversations and secure records.





FIDELITY

Keep professional commitments and remain dependable to patients, colleagues and society.

Disclose conflicts that could compromise judgement.



VERACITY

Tell the truth. Explain benefits, risks and limitations accurately.

Do not exaggerate results or hide relevant information.



Trust depends on what the pharmacist says, does and safeguards – not simply on a professional title.

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