Hospital Pharmacy

Professional Relations of the Hospital Pharmacist

Maintaining professional relationships is essential for collaborative healthcare delivery, patient safety, and institutional efficiency.

A. Relation with Physicians (Doctors)

Nature of Interaction:

- Collaborate on drug therapy decisions.
- Provide drug information regarding indications, contraindications, interactions, etc.
- Participate in ward rounds and clinical case discussions (clinical pharmacists).

Responsibilities:

- Suggest therapeutic alternatives when a drug is unavailable or unsuitable.
- Assist in dose individualization based on patient parameters (age, weight, renal/liver function).
- Report and discuss adverse drug reactions or medication errors.

Professional Etiquette:

- Respect physician's clinical judgment.
- Communicate evidence-based suggestions professionally.
- Avoid direct contradiction in front of patients.

B. Relation with Nurses

Nature of Interaction:

- Nurses are responsible for drug administration; pharmacists ensure they understand proper routes, timings, dilutions, and precautions.

Responsibilities:

- Clarify doubts related to drug reconstitution, infusion rates, and compatibility.
- Educate on high-alert and look-alike/sound-alike drugs.
- Support in identifying and managing drug-related problems in patients.

Professional Etiquette:

- Maintain respect and teamwork.
- Acknowledge the nurse's role in patient care.
- Share protocols and updates clearly.

C. Relation with Hospital Administration

Nature of Interaction:

- Administrative body oversees budgeting, compliance, and strategic direction.

Responsibilities:

- Provide data for budget planning and drug utilization trends.
- Participate in drug policy making and audit preparation.
- Report inventory status and procurement needs.

Professional Etiquette:

- Maintain transparency and documentation.
- Align with institutional goals and policies.
- Maintain confidentiality in institutional matters.

D. Relation with Patients

Nature of Interaction:

- Particularly in outpatient departments (OPD) and patient counseling services.

Responsibilities:

- Educate patients about correct drug use, side effects, and adherence.
- Clarify myths and misinformation.
- Monitor and document patient feedback or complaints.

Professional Etiquette:

- Show empathy and patience.
- Ensure privacy during counseling.
    - Use non-technical language for better understanding.

E. Relation with Regulatory Bodies and Suppliers

With Regulators (e.g., Drug Inspectors, FDA):

- Comply with laws and standards.
- Cooperate during inspections and audits.

With Suppliers and Manufacturers:

- Ensure procurement of quality drugs.
- Maintain ethical interaction (no undue favors or brand promotion).

Professional Practices of the Hospital Pharmacist

Professional practice includes the standards, ethics, behaviors, and responsibilities that define the conduct of a hospital pharmacist.

1. Code of Ethics and Conduct

- **As per Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) and International Guidelines:**
  - Uphold the dignity and honor of the profession.
  - Prioritize patient welfare above all.
  - Avoid conflict of interest and unethical promotion of products.
  - Maintain professional competency through continued education.

2. Confidentiality and Patient Rights

- Keep patient medication history and clinical data confidential.
- Avoid disclosing prescription details to unauthorized persons.
- Respect patient autonomy and informed decisions.

3. Rational Use of Medicines

- Promote evidence-based prescribing and dispensing.
- Avoid polypharmacy and irrational fixed-dose combinations.
- Monitor drug interactions and contraindications.

4. Participation in Committees

- Hospital pharmacists may serve on or support:
  - **Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC):** formulary decisions.
  - **Infection Control Committee:** antimicrobial stewardship.
  - **Pharmacovigilance Committee:** ADR monitoring and reporting.
  - **Ethics Committee:** clinical trials and patient safety reviews.

5. Documentation and Record Keeping

- Maintain records of prescriptions, drug stocks, dispensing logs, adverse events, and interventions.
- Ensure accuracy and retrievability for audit or legal purposes.

6. Professional Development

- Attend Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) and seminars.
- Participate in research, publications, and innovation in pharmacy practices.
- Encourage junior staff and interns in skill development.

7. Legal Compliance

- **Hospital pharmacists must adhere to:**
  - Pharmacy Act, 1948

- Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act
- Biomedical Waste Management Rules
- Hospital-specific SOPs and policies

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