**Principles of Pharmaceutical Ethics**

**THE DUTIES OF THE PHARMACIST IN CONNECTION  
WITH HIS SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC**  
Pharmacy has for its primary object the service which it can render to the public in  
safeguarding the handling, sale, compounding and dispensing of medicinal substances.  
The practice of Pharmacy demands knowledge, skill and integrity on the part ofthose engaged in it.

Pharmacists are required to pass certain educational tests in order to qualify for registration under the laws of most of our states. These various states restrict the practice of Pharmacy to those qualifying according to the regulatory requirements thereby granting to them a  
special privilege which is denied othercitizens.  
In return the states expect the Pharmacist to recognize his responsibility to the community and to fulfil his professional obligations honorably and with due regard for the physical well being of society.  
The Pharmacist should uphold the accepted standards of the United States Pharmacopoeia  
and the National Formulary for articles which are official in either of these works and should, as far as possible, encourage the use of these official drugs and preparations and discourage the use of proprietaries and nostrums. He should use only drugs and chemicals of the best quality obtainable for prescription filling and for sale when the articles are to be used for medicinal purposes.

He should neither buy, sell nor use substandard drugs except for uses which are not in any way connected with medicinal purposes. When a substance is sold for technical use the quality furnished should be governed by the grade required for the stated purpose.  
The Pharmacist should be properly remunerated by the public for his knowledge and skill when used in its behalf in compounding prescriptions, and his fee for such professional work as well as the cost of the ingredients.

The Pharmacist should not sell or dispense powerful drugs and poisons indiscriminately  
to persons not properly qualified to administer or use them, and should  
use every proper precaution to safeguard the public from poisons and from all habitforming medicines.  
The Pharmacist, being legally entrusted with the dispensing and sale of narcotic drugs and alcoholic liquors, should merit this responsibility by upholding and conforming to the laws and regulations governing the distribution of these substances.  
The Pharmacist should seek to enlist and merit the confidence of his patrons and when this confidence is won it should be jealously guarded and never abused by extortion or misrepresentation or in any other manner.  
The Pharmacist should consider the knowledge which he gains of their ailments, and the confidences of his patrons regarding these matters as entrusted to his honor, and he should never divulge such facts unless compelled to do so by law.  
The Pharmacist should hold the health and safety of his patrons to be of first consideration; he should make no attempt to prescribe or to treat diseases or strive to sell nostrums or specifics simply for the sake of profit. When an epidemic prevails, the Pharmacist should continue his labors for the alleviation of suffering without regard to risk of his own health and without consideration of emolument.  
He should keep his store clean, neat and sanitary in all its departments and should be well supplied with accurate measuring and weighing devices and other suitable apparatus for the proper performance of his professional duties. It is considered inimical to public welfare for the Pharmacist to have any clandestine arrangement with any physician in which  
fees are divided or in which secret prescriptions are concerned.  
Pharmacists should primarily be good citizens, should uphold and defend the laws of the state and nation. They should inform themselves concerning the laws, particularly those relating to food and drug adulteration and those pertaining to health and sanitation and should always be ready to cotiperate with the proper authorities having charge of the enforcement of the laws.  
The Pharmacist should be willing to join in any constructive effort to promote the public welfare and he should share his public and private conduct and deeds so as to entitle him to the respect and confidence of the community in which he practices.

**THE DUTIES OF THE PHARMACIST IN HIS RELATIONS  
TO THE PHYSICIAN**  
The Pharmacist even when urgently requested so to do should always refuse to prescribe or attempt diagnoses. He should under such circumstances, refer applicants for medical aid to a reputable legally qualified physician. In cases of extreme emergency  
as in accident or sudden illness on the street in which persons are brought to him pending the arrival of a physician such prompt action should be taken to prevent suffering as is dictated by humanitarian impulses and guided by scientific knowledge and common sense.  
The Pharmacist should not, under any circumstances, substitute one article for another, or one make of an article for another in a prescription, without the consent of the physician who wrote it. No essential change should be made in a physician's prescription except such as is warranted by correct pharmaceutical procedure, nor any that will interfere with the obvious intent of the prescriber, as regards therapeutic action.  
He should follow the physician's directions explicitly in the matter of refilling prescriptions, copying the formula upon the label or giving a copy of the prescription to the patient. He should not add any extra directions or caution or poison labels without due regard for the wishes of the prescriber, providing the safety of the patient is not jeopardized. Whenever there is doubt as to the interpretation of the physician's prescription or directions, he should invariably confer with the physician in order to avoid a possible mistake or an unpleasant situation.  
He should never discuss the therapeutic effect of a physician's prescription with a patron or disclose details of composition which the physician has withheld, suggesting to the patient that such details can be properly discussed with the prescriber only..  
**THE DUTIES OF PHARMACISTS TO EACH OTHER  
AND TO THE PROFESSION AT LARGE**The Pharmacist should strive to perfect and enlarge his professional knowledge. He  
should contribute his share toward the scientific progress of his profession and encourage  
and participate in research, investigation and study.  
He should associate himself with pharmaceutical organizations whose aims are compatible with this code of ethics and to whose membership he may be eligible. He should contribute his share of time and energy to carrying on the work of these organizations and promoting their welfare. He should keep himself informed upon professional matters by reading current pharmaceutical and medical literature.

He should perform no act, nor should he be a party to any transaction which will bring discredit to his profession or in any way bring criticism upon it, nor should he unwarrantedly criticize a fellow pharmacist or do anything to diminish the trust reposed  
in the practitioners of pharmacy.  
The Pharmacist should expose any corrupt or dishonest conduct of any member of his  
profession which comes to his certain knowledge, through those accredited processes  
provided by the civil laws or the rules and regulations of pharmaceutical organizations, and he should aid in driving the unworthy out of the calling.  
He should not allow his name to be used in connection with advertisements or correspondence for furthering the sale of nostrums or accept agencies for such.  
He should courteously aid a fellow pharmacist who in an emergency needs supplies. Such transactions had better be made in the form of a sale rather than by borrowing,  
as is often the custom.  
He should not aid any person to evade legal requirements regarding time and experience by carelessly or improperly endorsing or approving statements to which he would not be willing to make affidavit.  
He should not undersell a fellow pharmacist for the sake of commercial advantage,  
He should not imitate the labels of his competitors or take any other unfair advantage of merited professional or commercial success. When a bottle or package of a medicine is brought to him to be filled, he should remove all other labels and place his own thereon unless the patron requests otherwise.  
He should not fill orders which come to him by mistake, being originally intended for a competitor.  
He should never request a copy of a prescription from another pharmacist. It is the patient's duty to attend to this if he wishes to make a change in pharmacists. He should deal fairly with manufacturers and wholesale druggists from whom he purchases his supplies; all goods received in error or excess and all undercharges should be as promptly reported as are shortages and overcharges.  
He should earnestly strive to follow all trade regulations and rules, promptly meet all obligations and closely adhere to all contracts and agreements.