

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACISTS

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHARMACISTS

I. Introduction

All pharmacists registered with the Brunei Darussalam Pharmacy Board must abide to this Code of Ethics which serves as a guide to maintain a high level of professionalism amongst pharmacists practising in Brunei Darussalam. The code expresses that pharmacists are healthcare professionals who provide various scope of pharmacy services within the healthcare system which includes the community pharmacies and hospitals; the pharmaceutical industry; regulation; academia; pharmaceutical supply chain; and research and development.

This Code is intended to advocate the principles that form the fundamental roles and responsibilities of pharmacists; and sets the minimum standards of proper conduct and professionalism for guidance of pharmacists.

Note: To avoid different interpretation and dispute to any statements contained herein or any contents that need further clarification, the following laws shall prevail and should be referred to:

- *Poisons Act 1956;*
- *Misuse of Drugs Regulation 1984;*
- *Registration of Pharmacists Order 2001; and*
- *Medicines Order 2007*

II. Objectives

The objectives of this Code of Ethics are to:

- a) Provide guidance for pharmacists to maintain their competency and ethical behaviour in their professional conduct and practice;
- b) Serve as a reference for disciplinary proceedings when the Brunei Darussalam Board of Pharmacy considers cases of professional misconduct.

III. Code Of Ethics

A. THE PUBLIC

1. Make the care and safety of patients as the first priority.

- a) Pharmacists have the obligations to act in the best interest of the individual patient.
- b) Pharmacists have the responsibilities to provide professional care to patients in attaining optimal therapeutic/health outcomes.
- c) Pharmacists shall promote the safe, quality and appropriate use of medicines and ensure timely access to medicines for the patients.
- d) Pharmacists should always strive to provide information to patients regarding professional services truthfully, accurately, and clearly.
- e) Pharmacists shall provide professional service to the best of their capabilities and to conduct themselves in such a manner as to hold their profession in high esteem and use professional judgement by following the laws and regulations pertaining to pharmacy.
- f) Pharmacists shall bear the responsibility and accountability in the control and supply of medicines contributing to public health.
- g) Pharmacists shall make use of professional knowledge in educating the public on medicine use, misuse, and abuse.
- h) Pharmacists shall seek to maintain professional relationships with other pharmacists, colleagues, other members of the health care team and other stakeholders to achieve the highest standard of care for the best interest of the patient.

2. Respect and treat all patients equally, and protect their dignity and privacy.

- a) Pharmacists shall treat patients without prejudice of race, age, gender,

sexual orientation, nationality, religion, disability or socio-economic status; and not allow personal beliefs to influence the management of patients.

- b) Pharmacists shall hold the details of patient information in confidence by taking all reasonable steps to prevent accidental disclosure or unauthorised access to confidential information and should not disclose such information to anyone without proper patient authorization/consent except where the best interest of the patient requires or required by law.

B. THE PROFESSION

1. Comply with the laws/legal requirements, uphold professional standards and consistency in the promotion and provision of health services and products.

- a) Pharmacists shall comply with the laws that govern practice in the course of their professional responsibilities.
- b) Pharmacists shall ensure that the premise of practice must fulfil professional practice guidelines and standards so as to enable the provision of safe, high quality and cost effective health services and products.
- c) Pharmacists shall take responsibility for all work done by them and ensure that those under their direct supervision are able to carry out duties competently.
- d) Pharmacists shall ensure appropriate standard operating procedures exist and are adhered to for the care and safety of the patient.
- e) Pharmacists shall abide by governing laws, standards and guidelines pertaining to the research, manufacture, distribution, sale, promotion and advertising of all health services and products.
- f) Pharmacists shall refrain from misleading the public by promoting or criticising any health product or services, through advertisements or other endorsements.

g) Pharmacists shall make sure that their professional judgement is not impaired by personal or commercial interests, incentives, targets or similar measures.

2. Behave in a way that justifies trust and maintains the reputation of profession.

a) Pharmacists shall act with honesty and integrity to uphold public trust and confidence in their profession.

b) Pharmacists shall maintain proper professional boundaries in the relationships they have with patients and other individuals that they come into contact with during the course of professional practice.

c) Pharmacists shall refuse to knowingly condone the dispensing, promoting, or distributing of drugs or medical devices that are not of good quality, that do not meet standards required by law, or that lack therapeutic value for the patient.

d) Pharmacists shall seek to avoid conflicts of interest and declare any personal or professional interests to those who may be affected.

e) Pharmacists shall comply with legal requirements, mandatory professional standards and accept best practice guidance, and adhere to acceptable standards of personal and professional conduct.

f) Pharmacists shall be receptive, respond promptly and politely to shortcomings, complaints and criticism pertaining to practices.

g) Pharmacists shall honor commitments, agreements and arrangements for the provision of professional services.

h) Pharmacists shall be liable to provide accurate information that do not mislead others or make claims that cannot be justified.

i) Pharmacists shall disclose to the relevant authorities including the Board if they are self-aware of being a substance-abusing individual whose practice, judgment and skill could be impaired and may affect client care and safety.

- j) Pharmacists shall be responsible, if they are of sound mind, to disclose to the relevant authorities including the Board if they have been diagnosed with any medical condition that may render them unfit to continue to practice.

3. Always strive to develop and increase professional knowledge and competency.

- a) Pharmacists shall keep abreast with the most current professional knowledge and skills up-to-date so as to maintain a high standard of competency in professional practice.
- b) Pharmacists shall be prepared to learn and apply new knowledge and skills to expand their roles and responsibilities.
- c) Pharmacists shall commit to continuous learning and professional development as a means of advancing their practice and professional role.

4. Inter-professional relationship.

- a) Pharmacists shall maintain effective professional relationships with their colleagues and other healthcare professionals and offer assistance when called upon for advice and shall treat everyone equally.
- b) Pharmacists shall refrain from publicly criticising their colleagues and other healthcare professionals.
- c) Pharmacists shall demonstrate respect for the dignity, views, ability and rights of colleagues and other healthcare professionals in forming and maintaining professional relationship.

5. Impart knowledge, experience and skills to nurture future and new pharmacists.

- a) Pharmacists shall promote the interest of individuals in entering the profession, assist and supervise them in professional responsibilities and accountable for them.

- b) Pharmacists shall contribute to the development, education and training of colleagues and students, sharing relevant knowledge, skills and expertise to meet prescribed competency standards.

6. Uphold professionalism.

- a) Pharmacists shall contribute to the best of their abilities for the betterment of the profession of pharmacy and uphold their profession in a positive manner at all times.
- b) Pharmacists shall don in proper and decent attire at all times.

C. THE PRACTICES

1. Conduct or carry out responsibilities in a professional manner

- a) Pharmacists shall use information obtained in the course of professional practice only for the purposes for which it was given or where otherwise lawful.
- b) Pharmacists shall act in accordance to the policies and regulations of workplace regardless of the nature of work one is engaged in, be it research-related, academic-related, business-related, industry-related (including sales) or health institution-related.

References:

- ❖ Code of Ethics for Pharmacists (Pharmaceutical Society of Australia), September 2011
- ❖ Code of Conduct for Pharmacists and Bodies Corporate (Pharmacy Board Malaysia), 2009
- ❖ Pharmacy Code of Ethics (Singapore Pharmacy council), May 2009
- ❖ Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians (Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain), 1 August 2007
- ❖ Code of Ethics for Pharmacists (American Pharmacists Association), 2007