

ANALYSIS OF ETHICAL ASPECTS OF PHARMACISTS' WORK

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Introduction. Pharmacists hold a pivotal position within the healthcare system, functioning as key facilitators in the management of pharmacotherapy between healthcare providers and patients. Their professional obligations extend beyond the mere dispensation of medications; they are tasked with ensuring the optimal efficacy and safety of prescribed therapies, delivering accurate and comprehensive pharmaceutical care, and making decisions rooted in ethical principles. The ethical dimensions of pharmacists' responsibilities encompass critical issues such as patient confidentiality, informed consent, the management of conflicts of interest, and strict adherence to both legal and professional regulatory frameworks.

Aim. of this study is to analyze ethical aspects of pharmacists' work.

Materials and methods. This analysis is based on a comprehensive review of current literature on pharmacy ethics, professional guidelines, and surveys conducted among practicing pharmacists. Primary data was gathered through questionnaires distributed to a representative sample of pharmacists, which focused on their experiences with ethical dilemmas.

Results and their discussion. The findings revealed that pharmacists often encounter ethical dilemmas in areas such as patient confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and the dispensing of medications that may contradict personal beliefs. For example, pharmacists must often balance patient privacy with the need to communicate important health information to other healthcare providers. Additionally, the pressure to meet business goals in a retail setting can sometimes conflict with the ethical obligation to prioritize patient care. Pharmacists also reported facing challenges when dealing with prescriptions for controversial medications, such as those used in end-of-life care or reproductive health, where their personal moral values may conflict with their professional duties. The study highlighted the importance of ethical training in pharmacy education, as many respondents felt that their formal training did not fully prepare them for these situations. Professional guidelines and codes of conduct were found to provide a solid foundation for navigating these challenges. However, pharmacists emphasized the need for ongoing education and support in handling ethical issues, particularly as healthcare systems and societal expectations evolve.

Conclusions. The ethical aspects of pharmacists' work are multifaceted and often complex, requiring a balance between legal, professional, and personal considerations. The study concluded that while pharmacists are generally equipped to handle ethical challenges, there is a need for more comprehensive ethics training and better support systems in the workplace. Ensuring that pharmacists have the tools and knowledge to make ethically decisions is essential for maintaining the integrity of the profession and the trust of patients.