

Chapter 8

COMMUNITY PHARMACIST'S KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ABOUT FIP CODE OF ETHICS

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INTRODUCTION

The area where the pharmacist is responsible for dispensing and compounding drugs or preparing suitable dosage forms for administration of drugs are clinical settings, manufacturing, community pharmacy, and research. Pharmacy practice require a set of ethics because while providing daily patient's pharmaceutical care and/or interacting with other medical professionals, ethical issues could arise in the clinical setup in hospitals [1]. Pharmacists are becoming the primary source of medication information in many countries [2], especially in the community setting where pharmacists closely and directly interact with and impact on the final consumer of medicines [3].

Ethical concerns in health care have grown mainly because of the increasing cost concerns and technological developments. Especially the consumerist nature of community pharmacy and the co-modification of medicines have led to experiencing a number of conflicts [4].

All over the world, pharmacists have been facing some ethical dilemmas. According to the study of Bahnassi in Saudi Arabia "Community pharmacists felt comfortable to provide medicines legally labelled as 'prescription only' without a prescription on a wide scale" [5].

Ethics (also moral philosophy) is the branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct [6]. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) recommends

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is a significant relationship between community pharmacists' attitude to Principle 10; "The pharmacist behaves fairly in the distribution of health-related resources." in terms of gender and years of service (table 6).

The interesting result of Cooper's thesis study is that independent pharmacists did not find the codes of ethics so useful and that community pharmacists working in the pharmacy alone is the main problem. This has isolated pharmacists from the environments and relationships that will conduct ethical discussions [27]. On the other hand, nearly half of pharmacists participating in presenting research use the internet as an ethical information source, which will allow remote online editing of in-service trainings.

Pharmacists should be encouraged to provide quality services in today's difficult market conditions by being ethics, solving ethical dilemmas, using effective time and problem solving techniques, applying latest regulations.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study pointed out that the community pharmacists strongly agree to the FIP code of ethics. Attitude of pharmacists towards some principles of FIP Code of Ethics are in correlation with their age and experienced years in profession. The quality of the education has been affecting ethical debate, irregularities among the factors that influence and determine ethical principles, with the most common difficulties experienced about ethics in pharmacy services is unfair competition and drug-health policies.

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