

The Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists Pharmacist Code of Ethics

The following principles are based on moral obligations and form the fundamental basis of roles and responsibilities of pharmacists. The first eight principles are taken from the *Code of Ethics for Pharmacist*¹ (ASHP Policy 9607). Please refer to this document for interpretation of each principle. *PhRMA Code*² was used as a guide for the remaining principles.

- I. A pharmacist respects the covenantal relationship between the patient and the pharmacist.
- II. A pharmacist promotes the good of every patient in a caring, compassionate, and confidential manner.
- III. A pharmacist respects the autonomy and dignity of each patient.
- IV. A pharmacist acts with honesty and integrity in professional relationships
- V. A pharmacist maintains professional competence.
- VI. A pharmacist respects the values and abilities of colleagues and other health professionals.
- VII. A pharmacist serves individual, community, and societal needs.
- VIII. A pharmacist seeks justice in the distribution of health resources.
- IX. A pharmacist will comply with the *PhRMA Code* when participating in any activity with a pharmaceutical manufacturer or their representative.
Interpretation: Pharmacists should not solicit or accept gifts that might influence or appear to influence objectivity or clinical judgement. Pharmacists should avoid financial, consulting, or other relationships that are or appear to constitute conflicts of interest. Providers of continuing education that accept industry funding for programs should develop and enforce policies to maintain complete control of the program content and ensure delivery of fair and unbiased presentations. Donations by companies to professional associations for professional awards, community service activities, scholarships, etc. are acceptable.
- X. Pharmacists and the pharmaceutical industry should collaborate in efforts to optimize patient care.
Interpretation: Pharmacists should participate in research that meets accepted standards for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. Pharmacists should disclose consultant or speaker arrangements or substantial financial

holdings with companies under consideration for formulary inclusion or related decisions and when delivering educational programs.

References:

1. *Code of Ethics for Pharmacists* (ASHP Policy 9607), copyright American Pharmaceutical Association and endorsed by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists House of Delegates, 1996.
2. *Draft OIG Compliance Program Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers*. Federal Register, vol. 67; no. 192, October 3, 2002.

Adopted by the House of Delegates
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