

# **NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACISTS**

## **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS**

### **A Statement of Principles of Professional Conduct Adopted by the Association for the Self-Governance of Its Members**

#### **Preamble**

Pharmacists possess a unique and specialized body of knowledge that together with their skill and competency must be maintained. In order to serve the public health and welfare, law is established to restrict the practice of pharmacy to persons with special education and training whose qualifications and demonstrated competency grant them license and privilege denied to others. Because a profession requires its practitioners to consider the needs of its patients paramount, a basic and fundamental component is an unselfish concern for the welfare of others. Accordingly, Pharmacists recognize their responsibility to the community they serve to foster its well-being and to fulfill their professional obligations with honor and integrity.

These principles of professional conduct for Pharmacists are, therefore, established to guide relationships with patients, the public, fellow practitioners and other health professionals.

#### **Code of Professional Conduct**

##### Section 1

Pharmacists should hold the health and safety of patients to be of first consideration; they should render to each patient the full measure of their ability as an essential health care provider.

##### Section 2

Pharmacists should provide medication, medical devices and accessories that are safe and effective and that meet recognized standards of quality. They should never condone, support nor assist in the distribution of any drug or drug paraphernalia used to facilitate, or intended or designed to facilitate, violation of law.

##### Section 3

Pharmacists should always strive to enhance, broaden and perfect their professional knowledge and information necessary to apply to the delivery of their professional services.

#### Section 4

Pharmacists have the duty to observe the law, to uphold the dignity and honor of the profession, and to accept its ethical principles. They should not engage in any activity that will bring discredit to the profession and should expose, without fear or favor, illegal or unethical conduct in the profession.

#### Section 5

Pharmacists should neither agree to, nor practice under, terms or conditions which tend to interfere with or impair the proper exercise of their professional judgment and skill, which tend to cause a deterioration of the quality of their service, or which require them to consent to unethical conduct.

#### Section 6

Pharmacists should provide complete and accurate information to patients regarding professional services and should not misrepresent the quality, cost or value of those or related services.

#### Section 7

Pharmacists should seek at all times only fair and reasonable remuneration for their services. They should never agree to, nor participate in, transactions with practitioners or other health professions or any other person under which fees are divided or which may cause financial or other exploitation associated with the rendering of their professional services.

#### Section 8

Pharmacists should respect and honor the confidential and personal nature of patient related information and associated professional records; except where the best interest of the patient requires or law demands, they must not disclose such information to anyone without proper authorization.

#### Section 9

Pharmacists should associate with professional organizations having for their objective the protection of the public health and welfare and the betterment of Pharmacy. They should contribute of their time and resources to carry on the work of these organizations.

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