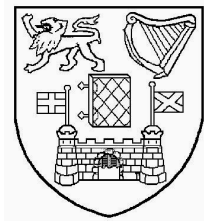


Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences



Trinity College Dublin

September 2009

Introduction

The Pharmacy course which you undertake in Trinity College Dublin is preparing you to enter a profession. Pharmacy is one of the registered healthcare professions, and carries both privileges and responsibilities.

Enrolment as a Pharmacy student in the College carries with it obligations of conduct, both inside and outside the classroom. Students are expected to have the highest standards of personal integrity and conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is a credit to themselves, the School, the College, and the profession.

This **Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students** applies to you from the first day of your course to the day you graduate. This **Code of Conduct** applies both on and off campus. Remember that as a Pharmacy student, you are not only representing yourself, but also the profession of pharmacy, your School and your University.

Pharmacists in the Republic of Ireland registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland must abide by its **Code of Conduct for Pharmacists**. When you become a pharmacist in Ireland it will apply to you. It is based on six principles. Every pharmacist and pharmacy in the country is expected to regularly consult this important document and ensure that their professional practice is guided and supported by these six principles.

This **Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students** is based on the same six principles as those in the Society's **Code of Conduct for Pharmacists** and it explains how the principles apply to you as a student. It will help you as you develop your understanding of what it is to be a pharmacist. The **Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students** indicates how the principles apply to you now and shows what is expected of you during your time as a student.

If you do not abide by the **Code of Conduct** you may be subject to the **Fitness to Practice Procedures** of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

This Code has been developed taking account of the PSI's Code of Conduct for Pharmacists and The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students which was introduced in July 2009.

The six principles:

- 1. Maintaining and improving the health, wellbeing, care and safety of patients must be your primary concern.**
- 2. Employ your professional competence, skills and standing so as to bring health gain and value to the community and society.**
- 3. Be honest and trustworthy and show respect for others.**
- 4. Conduct yourself in a manner which enhances the service which Pharmacy provides to society and which will maintain the good name of the profession.**
- 5. Maintain your professional knowledge and competence.**
- 6. Be aware of your obligations under the Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students and do not do anything which constitutes a breach of the Code.**

1. Maintaining and improving the health, wellbeing, care and safety of patients must be your primary concern.

The health, wellbeing and safety of patients must be your main concern.

To support this, you will, in your Pharmacy course, learn about the design and development of medicines and their safe and effective use. During the course of your studies you will be developing values, attitudes, knowledge and skills that you will use as a pharmacist. As a student you must:

- always bear in mind all your future possible role(s) as a pharmacist when studying: this applies equally to the science elements of the course as to pharmacy practice
- apply your learning to ensure you know how to develop and use medicines for the maximum benefit of patients
- promote the health of patients

2. Employ your professional competence, skills and standing so as to bring health gain and value to the community and society.

You will need to exercise professional knowledge and judgement at all times: your course is designed to help you understand what this means. As a student you must:

- conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times while undertaking any professional work experience/placement and respect the confidentiality of client or commercial information made available to you
- consider and act in the best interests of patients and the public
- ensure your personal views and beliefs do not compromise patient care
- make sure your judgement is not influenced by personal interests
- be prepared to challenge the judgement of others if you have reason to believe that their decisions could compromise safety or care
- raise concerns with the appropriate authority if policies, systems, working conditions, professional performance or health of others compromise patient care or public safety

3. Be honest and trustworthy and show respect for others

Demonstrating respect for the dignity, views and rights of others is fundamental in forming and maintaining appropriate professional relationships with patients, carers, colleagues and other individuals with whom you come into contact. These individuals must be able to trust you. As a student you must:

- act with honesty and integrity
- honour your commitments and take responsibility for your work and studies

- be on time for your commitments
- not plagiarise the work of others
- not knowingly mislead others
- be truthful in verbal and in written communications
- use research and laboratory data honestly and ethically, seeking permission to use data as required
- recognise diversity and respect the cultural differences, religion, values, customs and beliefs of others, including students and staff
- not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, race, disability, age or sexual orientation
- treat others politely, with consideration and with respect
- listen to, and respect, others' opinions and be non-judgemental in your attitudes toward them
- refrain from behaviour that includes intimidation, foul language, threats of violence or retaliation
- maintain proper professional boundaries in the relationships you have with others, especially with vulnerable adults and children
- recognise and respect the rights of patients
- respect patient confidentiality and consent, but disclose relevant information as required
- not access, or share medical information with anyone except those health care professionals fundamental to the care of the patient or within the context of pharmacy operations
- respect the knowledge and experience of other health professionals
- supply accurate information in response to lawful requests and update that information as necessary
- respond honestly, openly and courteously to complaints and criticisms concerning yourself or others
- cooperate with formal investigations about you or others
- abide by the rules and regulations of your university and other organisations linked to your studies

4. Conduct yourself in a manner which enhances the service which Pharmacy provides to society and which will maintain the good name of the profession.

Pharmacists, like all healthcare professionals, must take responsibility for their work. As a student you must:

- take responsibility for your learning and your actions and work constructively with others
- take responsibility for your own health, especially if it may impact negatively on other people
- not abuse alcohol or drugs so as to diminish the quality of patient care or your professional performance
- tell your university if there is anything that could impair your ability to study
- ask for help when you need it and respond appropriately
- plan and use your time effectively
- follow dress codes: dress in a neat, clean, professionally appropriate manner when away from the School while representing the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Pharmacy profession
- attend classes and conduct yourself appropriately
- be punctual
- be contactable
- ensure you have adequate English language skills
- abide by health and safety requirements

5. Maintain your professional knowledge and competence.

At all stages of your pharmacy career you must take responsibility for ensuring your knowledge and skills are up-to-date and that you maintain your competence. As a student you must:

- reflect on and develop your professional knowledge and competence throughout your course
- learn from experience and grow from the knowledge gained from errors to avoid repeating them
- be aware of your personal limitations and deficiencies in knowledge and abilities and stay within the limits of your competence
- not engage in unsupervised tasks when you are not adequately trained.
- if uncertain ask for help and assistance
- make rational and informed decisions
- engage constructively with assessments
- ensure you are aware of the continuing professional development requirements for pharmacists

6. Be aware of your obligations under the Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students and do not do anything which constitutes a breach of the Code.

It is the responsibility of all pharmacy students in Trinity College to make every reasonable effort to ensure that everything they do conforms with the principles laid down in the Code of Conduct for Pharmacy Students. As a student you must:

- ensure you are aware, apply and adhere to the principles of the Code of Conduct
- obey the law
- interact with the Pharmacy Regulator (the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland) as required and in an appropriate manner
- ensure that you are objective in behaviour and decision-making
- work in as open and transparent manner as possible
- promote and support the principles of the Code of Conduct by example
- not let inappropriate behaviour from classmates go unchallenged.
- report serious breaches of the Code of Professional Conduct to the appropriate person (e.g. lecturer, work experience/placement co-ordinator or year co-ordinator, Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning).