

Pharmacy ethical dilemmas survey (PEDS)

In this section of the survey will you be asked how you would handle pharmacy-specific dilemmas and why you would handle it in this manner. After reading the scenario, mark whether you would or would not dispense or accept the medication. You will then be provided with 8 potential reasons why you would or would not dispense or accept the medication. Of those 8 reasons, please rank the top 4 reasons why you made that choice – with “1” being the primary reason.

Scenario 1: Placebo use in patient care

While on rounds, the doctor mentions to his students and interns that he plans to put Mrs. Lembo on placebo capsules to see if her symptoms are real. He explains to the students that placebos have been used in patient care for decades because research has shown that a placebo effect exists. A placebo effect is a physiologic response to treatment even though no active medication is used.

As the pharmacist, would you dispense the placebo capsules?

- a. Yes, I would dispense the placebo
- b. No, I would not dispense the placebo

From the list of possible reasons provided, please rank the top 4 reasons why you would or would not dispense the placebo capsules

- ___ The patient has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- ___ The pharmacist has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- ___ It is the pharmacist's responsibility to not intentionally create harm or injury
- ___ It is the pharmacist's responsibility to act on behalf of the patient
- ___ The pharmacist must be truthful
- ___ All patients should receive equal treatment
- ___ The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-physician relationship
- ___ The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-patient relationship

Scenario 2: Sedating unruly patient

Mr. Porter is a 45 year old patient admitted to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. He is incoherent and shouting at passers by. The doctor does not believe that Mr. Porter poses any physical danger to himself or others but decides to prescribe sedatives.

Would you dispense the sedative?

- a. Yes, I would dispense the sedative
- b. No, I would not dispense the sedative

From the list of possible reasons provided, please rank the top 4 reasons why you would or would not dispense the sedative

- ___ The patient has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- ___ The pharmacist has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- ___ It is the pharmacist's responsibility to not intentionally create harm or injury
- ___ It is the pharmacist's responsibility to act on behalf of the patient
- ___ The pharmacist must be truthful
- ___ All patients should receive equal treatment
- ___ The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-physician relationship
- ___ The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-patient relationship

Scenario 3: Assisted suicide

Mrs. Peterson is a 50 year old patient with advanced AIDS. Due to the compromised immune system, she only has a few days to weeks left to live and is in terrible pain. She does not want to suffer through a painful death and wishes to end her life now. She asks the doctor to provide her with an overdose of morphine to hasten her death.

Would you dispense the morphine?

- a. Yes, I would dispense the morphine
- b. No, I would not dispense the morphine

From the list of possible reasons provided, please rank the top 4 reasons why you would or would not dispense the morphine

- The patient has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- The pharmacist has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- It is the pharmacist's responsibility to not intentionally create harm or injury
- It is the pharmacist's responsibility to act on behalf of the patient
- The pharmacist must be truthful
- All patients should receive equal treatment
- The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-physician relationship
- The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-patient relationship

Scenario 4: Expired medications for mission trip

Dr. Doherty, a clinical pharmacist, heading on medical mission trip to Haiti. The non-profit group which organizes these mission trips does not have funds available to purchase medications and medical supplies. A drug representative offers Dr. Doherty a large supply of expired medications and supplies for the trip.

If you were Dr. Doherty, would you accept the expired medications for use on the mission trip?

- a. Yes, I would accept the expired medications
- b. No, I would not accept the expired medications

From the list of possible reasons provided please rank the top 4 reasons why you would or would not accept the expired medications

- The patient has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- The pharmacist has a right to make an informed and voluntary decision
- It is the pharmacist's responsibility to not intentionally create harm or injury
- It is the pharmacist's responsibility to act on behalf of the patient
- The pharmacist must be truthful
- All patients should receive equal treatment
- The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-physician relationship
- The pharmacist must maintain the pharmacist-patient relationship