

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Both community and clinical pharmacists are challenged during their daily practice with ethical issues that influence their decision-making.

Objectives: The present study aims to explore the common ethical issues facing community and clinical pharmacists and impacting their decision-making.

Methods: A cross-sectional qualitative questionnaire-based study was conducted using a pre-piloted previously used survey with scenarios of ethical issues posted on the internet, and participants had to select a response on a 3-Lickert scale with “agree, neutral, or disagree”. For clinical and academic pharmacists, the survey included open-ended questions covering their experience with ethical issues.

Results: In general, the findings of the present study are comparable to those of earlier literature, where responses of community pharmacists in dealing with ethical issues during their daily practice were not always based on solid ethical standards and so were the responses of clinical and academic pharmacists.

Conclusion: Results of the present study indicated a need for a national code of ethics for pharmacists. There is also an urgent need to develop/enhance courses on ethics in pharmacy curricula and develop continuing pharmacy educational programs stressing mainly on professional ethics.

Keywords: Attitude, ethics, decision-making, community pharmacists, Clinical pharmacists, Academic pharmacists.