



PREVENTING MISUSE OF OF MEDICINE



**Third stage\2nd course
Pharmacy Ethics**

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Content

- Definition of Medicine misuse and abuse with example
- Causes of Medicine Misuse
- Risks and Consequences of Misusing Medicine
- Strategies to Prevent Medicine Misuse
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- Case Studies and Examples

Medicine misuse refers to the incorrect use of prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, whether intentional or unintentional.

Drug abuse the use of illegal drugs or the use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs for purposes other than those for which they are meant to be used, or in excessive amounts. Drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problems.

Common examples of drug misuse:

- Taking higher doses than prescribed.
- Using someone else's prescription.
- Stopping medication too early.
- Using medicine for non-medical purposes (e.g., recreational use of opioids).



Causes of Medicine Misuse



1. **Lack of awareness** – Many people do not understand the risks of incorrect medication use.
2. **Easy availability** – Over-the-counter medications and online pharmacies make access easier.
3. **Self-medication** – People take medicine without consulting healthcare professionals.
4. **Dependence and addiction** – Some drugs, like opioids and benzodiazepines, can cause dependency.
5. **Misinterpretation of prescriptions** – Patients may misunderstand instructions.

Risks and Consequences of Misusing Medicine

- **Health risks:**

- ✓ **Adverse drug reactions (ADRs)** – Severe allergic reactions, toxicity, or organ damage.
- ✓ **Antibiotic resistance** – Overuse of antibiotics leads to drug-resistant bacteria.
- ✓ **Overdose and poisoning** – Taking too much can be fatal.

- **Legal consequences:**

- ✓ Many drugs are regulated, and misuse can result in legal penalties.

- **Financial burden:**

- ✓ Increased healthcare costs due to complications



Strategies to Prevent Medicine Misuse

A. Patient Education

- ✓ Read medication labels and follow the instructions carefully.
- ✓ Ask doctors or pharmacists if unsure about dosage or side effects.
- ✓ Understand the dangers of sharing prescriptions.

B. Proper Prescription Practices

- ✓ Doctors should only prescribe necessary medicines and avoid overprescribing.
- ✓ Implementing **electronic prescription systems** to reduce errors.



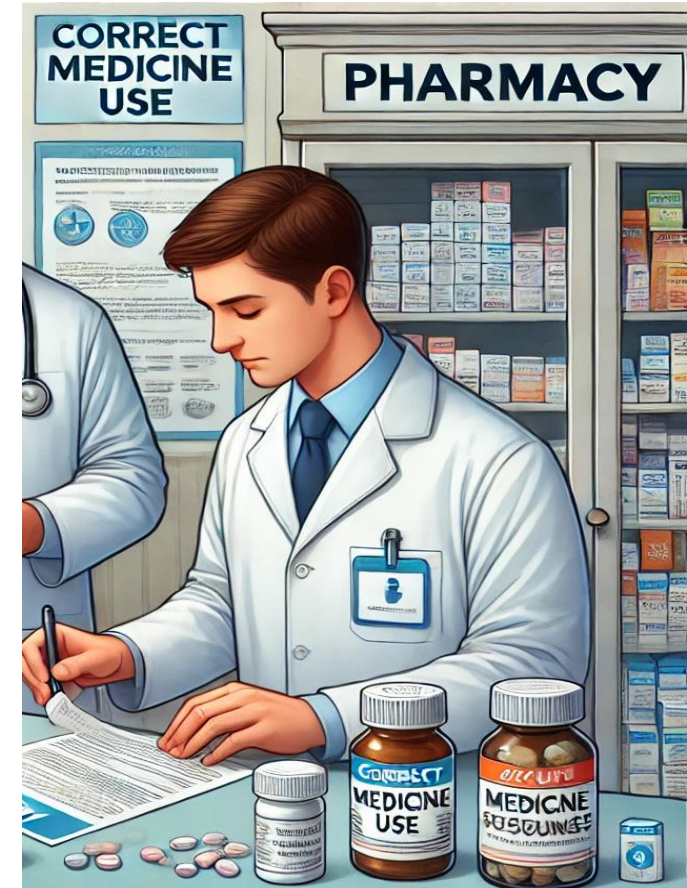
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C. Safe Storage and Disposal

- ✓ Keep medicines in **original containers** and away from children.
- ✓ Use **drug take-back programs** or follow proper disposal methods.

D. Regulations and Policies

- ✓ Governments should enforce strict drug control policies.
- ✓ Pharmacies should monitor drug sales to prevent overuse and abuse.





ABC's of Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse:

A Advise others of dangers.

B Be aware of the dangers.
Don't share medication.

C Control your medication.
Count your pills.

Role of Healthcare Professionals

- 1. Patient Education** – Pharmacists should counsel patients on correct usage, by Informing patients about correct dosages, potential side effects, and the risks of misuse.
- 2. Prescription Monitoring** – Doctors should assess patient history to avoid dependency risks by using prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) to track patient medication history.
- 3. Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship** – Preventing overuse and misuse antibiotics to combat resistance.



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4. Early Detection of Abuse – Identifying signs of addiction, dependency, or misuse in patients.

5. Encouraging Proper Medication Disposal – Educating patients on safe disposal methods for unused or expired drugs.

6. Collaboration with Other Healthcare Providers – Working with pharmacists, nurses, and mental health professionals to ensure holistic patient care.

7. Hospitals should have **pharmacovigilance programs** to monitor drug safety.



Case Studies and Examples

- **Opioid Misuse:** Research has shown that even when opioids are prescribed for legitimate pain, **a lack of proper monitoring** can lead to misuse and addiction. Initiatives to co-prescribe **naloxone** have helped reduce overdose deaths in high-risk populations.
- **Over-the-Counter Misuse:** Instances such as the abuse of **cough medicines containing dextromethorphan** demonstrate that even **OTC drugs can be misused**, necessitating clear guidelines and parental supervision

References

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Thank you

