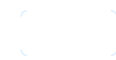


Amanda's Pharmacy Blog

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Pharmacists are Respected

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Pharmacists Rank High in Respect

Pharmacists should be beaming with pride.

An annual poll from Gallup shows that the American public considers pharmacists to be among the most honest and ethical professionals.

Pharmacists were rated as having "very high" or "high" honesty and ethical standards by 71% of respondents--an increase of five percentage points since the poll was conducted last year.

Only nurses and military officers ranked higher, but an additional 25% of respondents rated pharmacists' honesty and ethical standards as "average."

Pharmacy is a profession where honesty and ethics are paramount, along with respect. Both come from doing a good job and being professional.

"Honesty and integrity are a pre-requisite for this complicated, sophisticated job because these traits are essential for inspiring confidence in the pharmacist," said Ernie Gates, president of Gates Healthcare Associates, a pharmaceutical and healthcare consulting firm.

"This confidence is expressed in multiple ways: the physician can be assured that the prescription will be filled correctly; the patient can trust that they will get both the right medication and the right advice from the pharmacist; and third party payors can know that the drug they are covering will be dispensed accurately."

"An important measure of any pharmacist's success is the ability to connect with patients and colleagues," added Stanley George, a licensed pharmacist in New York City. Such a relationship is impossible without being completely honest."

Pharmacists have been ranked among the most trusted professionals in the country for more than two decades. From 1988 to 1998, pharmacists topped the survey; in 1999, nurses were added. Military officers, the only other group that surpassed pharmacists in 2010, are tested only every third year.

Rounding out the 2010 top five after nurses, military officers, and pharmacists were grade school teachers and medical doctors at 67% and 66% very high/high, respectively.