

The supervision of non-prescription drugs by pharmacists and the retailer liability

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The newly amended pharmaceutical affairs law obliged it to provision of the drug information for the consumers by the document and the classified exhibition of the products by so-called "over-the-counter" method, and the outside package display that responded to the level of the risk of the non-prescription drugs. In Japan Pharmaceutical Association Non-prescription Drugs Committee, the "Guidance (the provisional version) of Non-prescription Drugs sale" was created towards 2009 fiscal year of the complete enforcement. This guidance used to summarize the basic philosophy and the standard procedure of non-prescription drugs sale under the following ideas that "a pharmacy achieves the responsibility as a supply of all the medicines, and a pharmacist has the duty to contribute to the health and the welfare of the public in the proper drug use." In this guidance, we showed clearly the role of a pharmacist in duty. Specifically, the new concept of "retailer liability" was shown expressing a pharmacist's responsibility. A pharmacist takes the responsibility through to sale and the follow-up monitoring from safekeeping of OTC drugs, and this shall consist of two requirements, a "legal requirements" and "professional requirements." And it has advocated putting a "retailer liability label" on the package of a product as a proof which achieves this responsibility to a consumer at the time of sale. There is two meaning which clarifies "retailer liability." One should impress existence of a pharmacist strongly as a specialist to a consumer and the public. Another one is urging to change the attitude and the conception to current non-prescription drug sales into the pharmacist side greatly.