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Health Law and Medical Ethics : Implications in the use of Psychotropics Drugs

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Abstract: In medical practice, the application of medical ethics often overlaps with general societal ethics, particularly in the use of psychotropic drugs. Regulations related to psychotropics have been established in various legal provisions, such as the Health Law and the Psychotropics Law, to ensure the safe and controlled use of these substances. However, in practice, there are still instances of abuse of authority by medical personnel, including improper prescription procedures and unlawful distribution. This study employs a normative juridical method, utilizing a legislative and conceptual approach. The findings indicate that legal sanctions for such violations have been established, including criminal and administrative penalties. However, the implementation of these sanctions still faces challenges in terms of effectiveness and balancing patient protection with access to medication. From a medical ethics perspective, the principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and informed consent must be upheld in prescribing these drugs to protect patients' rights and prevent dependency or harmful side effects. Therefore, a more comprehensive policy evaluation is necessary to ensure the proper use of psychotropic drugs in accordance with legal and ethical principles while strengthening oversight in medical practice to prevent misuse.

Keyword: Medical Personnel, Psychotropics, Misuse.

INTRODUCTION

In practice, the application of Medical Ethics often intersects with the Ethics of the General Public, such as the use of psychotropic drugs (Benartin & Fransiska, 2021). Even though it has been regulated, it is clear that it is still a dilemma and debate. The application of medical science and technology often raises debates between medical ethics and legal goals. Both aim to serve human interests, and the controversy over their implementation raises ethical dilemmas (Budiarsih, 2021).

Health law and medical ethics have an important role in regulating the use of psychotropic drugs in Indonesia. Psychotropics are substances that can affect the central nervous system and have the potential to cause dependence, so their use must be carried out with strict supervision. In Indonesia, regulations related to the use of medicines in the health

sphere have been strictly regulated through Law Number 17 of 2023 concerning Health (Health Law). It is stated in Article 139 paragraph (1) of the Health Law that every person involved in the production, possession, storage, distribution, and use of drugs containing narcotics and psychotropics is obliged to comply with certain standards and requirements. The use of these drugs is only allowed with a doctor's prescription and is strictly prohibited from being abused, as stipulated in Article 139 paragraph (2) of the Health Law.

Psychotropics that are distributed and used in a number of pharmaceutical service facilities are also required to have a distribution permit in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. As stipulated in Article 3 paragraph (2) of BPOM Regulation Number 24 of 2021 concerning Supervision of the Management of Drugs, Medicinal Ingredients, Narcotics, Psychotropics, and Pharmaceutical Precursors in Pharmaceutical Service Facilities (PBPOM 24/2021) that drugs, narcotics, psychotropics, and pharmaceutical precursors that are circulated must have a distribution permit and must meet the requirements for safety, efficacy, and quality.

More in-depth regarding the follow-up rules for psychotropic supervision is regulated in BPOM Regulation Number 9 of 2024 concerning Guidelines for Follow-up Results of Supervision of Drugs, Medicinal Materials, Narcotics, Psychotropics, Precursors, and Addictive Substances (PBPOM 9/2024). The regulation comprehensively contains supervision of psychotropics to prevent irregularities in import, production, and distribution, as well as ensure compliance with safety, efficacy, and quality standards or requirements. The law plays an important role in controlling and protecting the public from the risk of deviation from the use of psychotropic substances (Suharto, 2021).

The use of psychotropic drugs in the medical world faces various legal issues related to regulation, abuse, and responsibility of health workers. In Indonesian law, the use and distribution of psychotropic drugs is regulated in Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, which regulates the limits on the use of these drugs only for medical and research purposes. However, in practice, there are still cases of psychotropic abuse by medical personnel and patients, both in the form of prescriptions that are not in accordance with procedures and consumption without clear medical indications.

From a health law perspective, psychotropic abuse can be subject to criminal and administrative sanctions. Doctors who illegally prescribe or administer psychotropics without clear medical indications can be punished under Articles 60-62 of the Psychotropic Law and can be revoked their practice license under Article 75 of the Health Law. In addition, patients who experience dependency due to drug abuse are also entitled to rehabilitation.

In terms of medical ethics, the use of psychotropics must follow the principles of beneficence (the patient's goodness), non-maleficence (not harming the patient), and informed consent. Doctors are required to provide clear information about the benefits and risks of this drug before prescribing it, in accordance with the Indonesian Medical Code of Ethics (KODEKI). However, in some cases, there are non-transparent prescribing practices, where patients are not given an adequate understanding of the side effects of psychotropic drugs. This can cause legal problems, especially if there are serious side effects that harm the patient.

The urgency of legal and ethical regulation in the use of psychotropics lies in the need to strike a balance between reasonable medical access and the prevention of abuse. Overly strict regulation can deter patients who actually need treatment with psychotropics, while overly loose regulation can increase the risk of abuse. Therefore, strict supervision is needed on the distribution and use of this drug, with a more transparent monitoring system and stricter law enforcement against violations.

A similar study was conducted by Syamsul Bachri in 2024 (Syamsul Bachri, 2024) with the title Legal Implications of Ethical Issues in Medical Practice This research discusses the ethics of medicine that must be carried out in accordance with the rules. Doctors should not be negligent because it will have a fatal impact and become a loss for the patient. When the doctor has complied with the standard operating procedure, it can prevent negligence. Another study

was conducted by Arini in 2020 (Arini Meronica, 2019) with the title Criminal liability in the administration of drugs to patients. This study discusses the SOP of doctors in administering drugs to patients. Giving drugs that are not in accordance with the SOP can harm patients and are considered malpractice.

Health law and medical ethics have a very important role in regulating the use of psychotropics in the medical world (Destiny, 2018). Strict regulations must be implemented to prevent abuse by medical personnel and patients, but on the other hand must also ensure fair access for patients who need it.

The application of good medical ethics in the administration of these drugs can help reduce the risk of dependence and side effects for patients. With stricter supervision and wider education to medical personnel and the public, it is hoped that the use of psychotropics can remain under control and in accordance with legitimate medical purposes.

The main issue in this study is the imbalance between legal certainty, medical ethics, and patient protection in the use of psychotropic drugs. Psychotropics have a high potential for abuse, so the regulation of their use is strictly regulated in health law, such as in Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics and related laws and regulations.

However, in medical practice, there is a dilemma between the patient's need for effective therapy and the legal limitations governing its distribution and use. In addition, problems arise related to abuse by medical personnel, both in the form of overprescription and use that is not in accordance with medical indications, which can have an impact on patient safety and legal aspects faced by doctors.

The urgency of this research lies in the importance of formulating a balance between legal aspects, medical ethics, and health policy in the control of psychotropic drugs. With the increase in cases of drug abuse, both in the medical environment and in the community, it is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations and the application of legal sanctions for violations that occur.

In addition, from the perspective of medical ethics, it is necessary to examine the extent to which legal policies can provide flexibility for medical personnel in providing health services without violating the professional code of ethics. This research is expected to provide more comprehensive policy recommendations in regulating the use of psychotropics, in order to protect patients' rights, maintain the professionalism of medical personnel, and prevent the negative impact of drug abuse.

This study aims to address the legal implications of medical personnel who abuse their authority in the prescription and use of psychotropic drugs in Indonesia, the balance between legal protection of patients and ease of access to psychotropic drugs in medical practice in Indonesia, the effectiveness of legal regulations in preventing the abuse and illegal circulation of psychotropic drugs in Indonesia and the principles of medical ethics (such as beneficence, non-maleficence, and informed consent) applied in the use of psychotropic drugs by medical personnel. Therefore, based on the above background, the author is interested in writing a journal with the title "HEALTH LAW AND MEDICAL ETHICS: IMPLICATIONS IN THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS"

METHOD

1. Types of Research

Normative legal research is a type of research that examines legal norms in a legal system. This research aims to analyze and understand the applicable laws and regulations, both written and developed in practice.

According to Peter Mahmud Marzuki (Marzuki, 2010), normative juridical research is a type of research that aims to explore, analyze, and interpret existing legal norms, both those written in laws and regulations and norms that develop in society. This research focuses more

on the study of legal theory and legal norms that govern the problem being researched, and aims to obtain a deeper explanation or understanding of a applicable legal provision.

2. Types and Sources of Legal Substances

a. Types of Legal Materials

In normative legal materials, the following legal materials are used:

1. Primary legal material: Primary legal material is a source or legal material that has a position as a legal basis that is legally binding and directly binding in the legal system of a country. Primary legal materials are usually in the form of applicable laws and regulations, such as laws, government regulations, presidential decrees, regional regulations, court decisions, and international conventions recognized by the state. Primary legal materials are the main source in legal research because they provide a valid basis and reference regarding the applicable legal provisions.
2. Secondary legal materials: These legal materials support primary legal sources, including books, journals, official documents, and scientific articles.
3. Tertiary legal materials: tertiary legal materials complement primary and secondary sources, including legal dictionaries, Indonesian dictionaries, and other translated dictionaries.

b. Source of Legal Materials

This normative legal research uses a legislative approach, relying on literature sources such as laws and regulations, non-official legal publications, websites, the internet, and dictionaries.

3. Data Collection Techniques

The technique of collecting legal materials is a method used by researchers to obtain various sources of relevant legal materials to explore and analyze legal problems. This technique includes literature studies that rely on literature or written references such as laws, regulations, jurisprudence, books, legal journals, and other scientific works.

In addition, this technique also includes the study of documents by analyzing court decisions, international treaties, and other official documents. In the collection of normative legal materials, the main focus is on the existing legal texts, which serve as the basis for analyzing legal problems in a theoretical framework, as well as understanding how the law is applied and interpreted

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Legal Implications for Medical Personnel Who Abuse Authority in the Prescription and Use of Psychotropic Drugs in Indonesia

According to Article 320 of the Health Law, drugs are divided into two main categories, namely drugs that require a prescription and drugs that can be purchased without a prescription. Medications that require a prescription include psychotropic drugs and narcotics. In accordance with Article 4 of Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, the use of psychotropics is only allowed for health services and/or scientific purposes. However, prescription psychotropic abuse is still a problem, especially since patients can buy drugs at various pharmacies without being detected by doctors.

Law Number 5 of 1997 classifies psychotropics into four groups based on their level of dependence. Group I psychotropics have a very high potential to cause dependence and are generally only used for scientific research. Group II psychotropics have a strong dependency potential and can be used in therapy or research. Meanwhile, Group III Psychotropics have moderate dependency potential and are used for therapeutic purposes. Finally, Group IV Psychotropics have a lower potential for dependence and are also used for therapy or research.

Over time, several types of psychotropic drugs in groups I and II were reclassified into Class I Narcotics based on Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. This law classifies

narcotics into three groups, namely class I narcotics which are restricted in their use for scientific research and prohibited from their use in therapy because they have the potential to cause dependence.

Group II narcotics have efficacy in treatment, but their use is limited as a last resort in therapy. In addition, narcotics in this category can also be used for scientific research, although they have a high potential to cause dependence. Meanwhile, Class III narcotics have a lower potential for dependence and are more widely used in medical therapy and scientific research.

In an effort to prevent the abuse of these drugs, the Medical Code of Ethics affirms that doctors are prohibited from leaving prescriptions in a signed state. This provision aims to prevent prescriptions from being misused by irresponsible parties, such as being used to obtain drugs illegally. In addition, according to Article 308 of the Health Law, those who are suspected of committing violations cannot be immediately sanctioned. Before being sanctioned, a recommendation from the panel is required as stipulated in Article 304. This mechanism is intended to provide legal protection for medical personnel and ensure a fair examination before sanctioning.

In the criminal law system in Indonesia, law enforcement against crime aims not only to punish the perpetrator, but also to create a deterrent effect to prevent the recurrence of criminal acts. Criminalization in the context of correctional is no longer just a means of punishment, but is also directed to the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration for prisoners. This shows that the main purpose of punishment is to maintain public order and ensure that criminals can return to become productive individuals in society after serving their sentence.

Regarding the abuse of authority in prescribing psychotropic drugs by medical personnel, the Criminal Code (KUHP) has not specifically regulated these criminal acts. However, these actions can be subject to sanctions based on Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics. In this regulation, the illegal use, production, distribution, and possession of psychotropics are included in the category of criminal acts that can be subject to severe punishment. This aims to control the abuse of psychotropic substances that have the potential to harm society and ensure that their use is only intended for legitimate medical purposes.

Based on Article 59 of Law Number 5 of 1997, a person who illegally uses, produces, distributes, imports, or possesses class I psychotropics can be sentenced to a minimum of 4 years in prison and a maximum of 15 years. In addition, perpetrators can also be fined ranging from IDR 150 million to IDR 750 million. This provision shows that the state seeks to provide strict sanctions to prevent the abuse of psychotropic substances and ensure that their circulation remains under strict legal control.

With strict regulations related to the classification and use of psychotropic drugs and narcotics, the government seeks to prevent abuse that can have a negative impact on public health. However, challenges still remain, including in terms of drug distribution supervision and prescription abuse that can still occur due to weaknesses in patient identification systems in health facilities and pharmacies. Therefore, a better system is needed to strictly supervise the distribution of drugs and increase the awareness of medical personnel in maintaining the integrity of drug prescribing practices.

2. a balance between patient legal protection and ease of access to psychotropic drugs in medical practice in Indonesia

The balance between legal protection for patients and ease of access to psychotropic drugs in medical practice in Indonesia is a complex issue. On the one hand, patients have the right to legal protection so as not to become victims of abuse or dependence on psychotropic substances (Nur et al., 2024). On the other hand, easy access to these drugs is necessary for patients who really need medical therapy. Therefore, regulations governing the distribution and use of psychotropic drugs should ensure that these drugs are only given to patients in need based on clear medical indications (Budiarsih, 2021).

The Government of Indonesia has established strict regulations regarding the use of psychotropics, as stated in Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics and Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. These drugs are classified into several classes based on the degree of dependence they can cause. The regulation aims to prevent abuse and ensure that drugs are only given to patients who meet certain medical conditions.

Although regulations have been set, there are still challenges in their implementation. One of the problems that often occurs is the repeated purchase of psychotropic drugs in various pharmacies without strict supervision. Doctors and pharmacists do not always have systems in place that allow them to thoroughly check a patient's prescription history. As a result, irresponsible patients can abuse this loophole to obtain improper amounts of the drug (Wati et al., 2023).

In the context of legal protection of patients, it is important for governments to improve the system of supervision of the distribution of psychotropic drugs without hindering patients' access to necessary treatment. Digitization of medical records and electronic prescribing systems can be a solution in overcoming prescription abuse. With this system, doctors and pharmacists can monitor the amount and frequency of medication given to patients, so that abuse can be minimized.

In addition to strict supervision, education to medical personnel and the public is also an important factor in achieving a balance between legal protection and ease of access to medicines. Medical personnel must understand the limitations and responsibilities of prescribing psychotropic drugs, while patients need to be given an understanding of the risks of drug abuse. With good education, legal and public health awareness can be increased, so that the use of psychotropics is more controlled.

The pharmacy review and prescribing system is an important step in ensuring a balance between the legal protection of patients and ease of access to psychotropic drugs (Mansur, 2023). Administrative, pharmaceutical, and clinical screening conducted by pharmacists aims to ensure that drugs are administered in accordance with legitimate medical needs and prevent abuse.

However, the existence of cases of prescription counterfeiting shows that this system still has loopholes that can be exploited by irresponsible parties. In the context of balance, these screening procedures should be optimized so as not to hinder access to patients who really need psychotropic drugs for therapy, but still be able to prevent abuse by improving document validation and communication between pharmacists and prescribing doctors.

On the other hand, research in the Special Region of Yogyakarta which found many cases of fake prescriptions shows that the supervision of the distribution of psychotropic drugs still needs improvement.

Pharmacists often face a dilemma between providing the best possible service for patients and ensuring that the prescriptions received are legitimate. If supervision is too loose, then the risk of abuse increases, but if it is too strict without a supportive system, patients in need may have difficulty obtaining medication.

Therefore, a balance in policy must be realized by strengthening the electronic verification system, clarifying regulations related to the responsibility of pharmacists, and improving coordination between medical personnel and law enforcement so that the distribution system of psychotropic drugs remains safe without hindering health services.

Although Indonesia has various regulations regulating the use of psychotropics, such as Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics and Law Number 17 of 2023 concerning Health, patients' access to psychotropic drugs still faces challenges.

The regulation stipulates that the use of psychotropics must be carried out with strict supervision to prevent abuse. However, strict administrative requirements, limited prescribing physicians, and complex distribution mechanisms often hinder patients from obtaining the medication they need. This is especially felt by patients with mental health disorders who

require ongoing therapy, but face obstacles in obtaining prescriptions or medication supplies at certain health facilities.

On the other hand, strict regulations also provide legal certainty and protection against psychotropic abuse that has the potential to harm society. The government seeks to strike a balance between accessibility for patients in need and the prevention of abuse through policies such as e-prescription systems and technology-based distribution supervision.

However, the effectiveness of this policy still depends on the readiness of adequate health infrastructure and socialization. Therefore, although regulations have provided a legal basis for access to psychotropic drugs for patients in need, implementation in the field still needs improvements to be more adaptive to medical needs without sacrificing aspects of supervision and safety.

3. The Effectiveness of Legal Regulations in Preventing the Abuse and Illegal Circulation of Psychotropic Drugs in Indonesia

Legal regulations in Indonesia have strictly regulated the use, distribution, and supervision of psychotropic drugs through various laws and regulations, such as Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics and Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. These two regulations aim to control the use of psychotropics so that they are not misused and ensure that these drugs are only used for medical and scientific purposes. However, the effectiveness of regulations in preventing abuse and illegal circulation still faces various challenges (Augustine, 2017).

One of the main challenges is the weak supervision in the distribution of psychotropic drugs. Although regulations have stipulated that this drug can only be obtained with a doctor's prescription, there are still many loopholes in the system that allow abuse to occur (Wati et al., 2023). For example, prescription counterfeiting is still rampant in various regions, as found in a study in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, where pharmacists often face counterfeit prescriptions used to obtain illegal drugs. This shows that the validation and verification system is still not optimal in preventing falsification of medical documents.

In addition, the system for recording and monitoring the circulation of psychotropic drugs is still not well integrated. In practice, doctors and pharmacists do not always have access to a patient's prescription history, thus allowing a patient to obtain a prescription from multiple doctors and redeem it at different pharmacies. The ineffectiveness of this recording system makes it difficult to monitor the use of psychotropic drugs, which ultimately contributes to the high rate of abuse.

In terms of law enforcement, the authorities still face various obstacles in eradicating the illegal circulation of psychotropic drugs. Although there is a criminal threat for perpetrators of abuse and illicit trafficking, perpetrators often take advantage of weaknesses in regulations and weak coordination between related agencies. In addition, there are still many cases where the sanctions imposed have not had enough of a deterrent effect, so that illegal circulation continues (Nur et al., 2024).

On the other hand, the effectiveness of regulations is also influenced by low public awareness of the dangers of psychotropic abuse. Many individuals assume that these drugs can be used freely for non-medical purposes, such as improving concentration or overcoming sleep disorders, without understanding the risks of addiction and its long-term impacts. Therefore, education and socialization to the public must be an integral part of psychotropic control policies.

Another effort that needs to be strengthened is the application of technology in the supervision of the distribution of psychotropic drugs. An e-prescription system can be a solution to reduce cases of prescription counterfeiting and increase transparency in prescriptions. With this system, prescription data can be directly recorded in a national system that can be accessed

by pharmacies and relevant authorities, so that supervision of drug distribution can be more effective.

Collaboration between the government, medical personnel, pharmaceuticals, and law enforcement officials is also a key factor in increasing the effectiveness of regulations. Better coordination in monitoring drug distribution, periodic audits of pharmacies and hospitals, and increased training for health workers in recognizing patterns of psychotropic drug abuse are needed to tighten supervision.

In addition to law enforcement and distribution supervision, rehabilitative approaches for psychotropic abusers should also be considered. Many cases of abuse occur due to a lack of access to adequate mental health services, so individuals with psychological disorders are more vulnerable to seeking instant solutions through illegal drugs. Therefore, a more comprehensive policy should include improving mental health services to reduce dependence on psychotropic drugs.

In the international context, Indonesia also needs to strengthen cooperation with other countries in eradicating the illegal circulation of psychotropic drugs, considering the large number of illegal drugs entering through cross-border illicit trade routes.

Strengthening surveillance at ports and airports, as well as increasing information exchanges with international institutions can help reduce the illegal supply of psychotropic drugs in the country.

Overall, although the legal regulations regarding psychotropic drugs in Indonesia have been quite strict, their effectiveness in preventing abuse and illegal circulation is still not optimal. A more comprehensive approach is needed through improving the supervision system, applying technology, cross-sector coordination, and education to the public so that existing regulations can run more effectively in protecting the community from the negative impacts of psychotropic abuse.

4. Principles of Medical Ethics Applied in the Use of Psychotropic Drugs by Medical Personnel

Beneficence is a principle of medical ethics that requires medical personnel to act for the good of patients (Suryadi, 2019). This principle requires doctors to provide care that can improve the patient's well-being, including in choosing the right medication for his or her medical condition. In the context of psychotropic drugs, beneficence means that medical personnel must consider the benefits of using these drugs in dealing with the mental or neurological disorders of the patient.

When a doctor prescribes a psychotropic drug, he or she must ensure that the decision provides the best benefit to the patient. For example, in treating patients with severe anxiety disorders, doctors should choose the most effective type of psychotropic with minimal side effects. This decision must also be based on scientific evidence and good medical practice. One of the challenges in applying beneficence to the use of psychotropic drugs is the possibility of drug abuse. Doctors should ensure that patients not only receive the benefits of the drug but also not use it inappropriately, such as for recreational purposes or beyond the recommended dosage (Damayanti, 2024).

Non-maleficence is a principle of medical ethics that requires medical personnel not to cause harm to patients. This principle is often summed up in the phrase primum non nocere. In the context of the use of psychotropic drugs, this principle means that doctors must be careful that the treatment given does not cause side effects that outweigh the benefits. Doctors should consider the side effects and risk of dependence that psychotropic drugs may pose (Putriana et al., 2023). For example, benzodiazepines used to treat anxiety have a high potential for dependence if used in the long term. Therefore, doctors should consider other alternatives or keep a close eye on their use.

One of the challenges in applying the principle of non-maleficence is the difficulty of determining the boundary between the benefits and risks of medicine. Some patients may experience side effects that outweigh the benefits obtained, so doctors may have to adjust the dosage or look for other therapeutic alternatives.

Informed consent is consent given by the patient after obtaining sufficient information about the benefits, risks, alternatives, and consequences of a medical procedure. In the use of psychotropic drugs, informed consent means that the patient must be clearly aware of the side effects, duration of treatment, and potential dependence before starting therapy.

Before prescribing a psychotropic drug, the doctor should explain to the patient how the drug works, the possible side effects, and the long-term risks (Titien Siwi Hartayu, Yosef Wijoyo, 2020).

For example, patients who are given antidepressants should be aware that the effects may only be felt after a few weeks, and that sudden discontinuation of the medication can cause serious side effects. Not all patients have a good understanding of psychotropic drugs (Anwar Rosyadi, Relin Yesika, Erma Pranawati, Francis Rosari Dewi, 2023). Some patients may lack understanding of the information provided by the doctor or have unrealistic expectations of treatment. Therefore, the doctor must convey information in a clear and easy-to-understand way.

These three principles of medical ethics must be applied simultaneously in the use of psychotropic drugs. Doctors must ensure that treatment provides benefits to patients (beneficence), does not pose unnecessary harm (non-maleficence), and the patient has understood and agreed to the treatment given (informed consent) (Suryadi, 2019). Misuse of psychotropic drugs, such as use without a doctor's prescription or overdose, can raise ethical concerns. In this situation, the doctor must carry out his role not only as a treatment provider but also as a supervisor to prevent abuse that can harm the patient.

Sometimes, doctors face ethical dilemmas, for example when patients ask for psychotropic drugs that are not really needed. In this situation, the doctor must strike a balance between meeting the patient's needs (beneficence) and preventing potential harm (non-maleficence).

To ensure the application of good medical ethical principles, doctors must conduct periodic evaluations of patients who take psychotropic drugs. This aims to assess the effectiveness of treatment and detect signs of abuse or dangerous side effects. The government and health institutions have a role in supervising the use of psychotropic drugs. Strict regulations regarding the distribution and prescription of these drugs aim to ensure that medical personnel carry out ethical principles properly in their prescription and use.

Beneficence, non-maleficence, and informed consent are the principles of medical ethics that must be applied in the use of psychotropic drugs (Ikhsan, 2022). Doctors have the responsibility to ensure that these treatments provide maximum benefits with minimal risk and ensure that patients understand the consequences of the treatment given. Thus, these ethical principles not only protect patients but also maintain the integrity of the medical profession.

CONCLUSION

Based on the background description and discussion above, the author concludes as follows:

That the strict sanctions in Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, in the form of a prison sentence of 4 to 15 years and a fine of Rp150 million to Rp750 million, reflect the state's efforts to suppress the abuse of psychotropics.

This regulation seeks to maintain a balance between patients' access to the medicines needed and strict supervision so that abuse does not occur. In terms of effectiveness, even though heavy sanctions have been implemented, further supervision is still needed to ensure the compliance of medical personnel in prescribing psychotropics. In addition, the principles of

medical ethics require health workers to act professionally by prioritizing patient safety and not abusing authority, so this regulation also serves as a reminder of the moral and legal responsibilities they must abide by.

Governments can develop a one-stop application in the prescription of psychotropics that is integrated with the national health system to ensure strict supervision of the distribution and use of the drug. This application must have digital verification features for authorized medical personnel, recording of patient prescription history, and an early detection system for potential abuse. With this system, transparency and accountability in the prescribing of psychotropic drugs can be increased, so that the balance between patient access and legal oversight is maintained.

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