

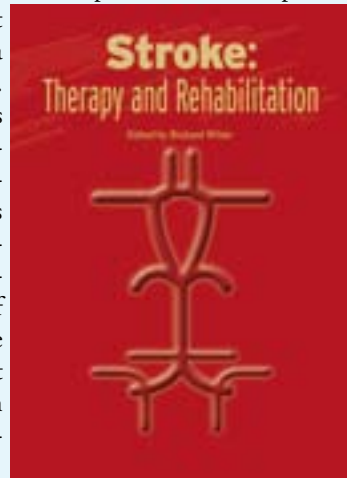
### Stroke: Therapy and Rehabilitation

Edited by Richard White  
Quay Books 2005  
Price £39.99. Pp 195  
ISBN 185642247X

Stroke care requires a truly interdisciplinary approach and this is reflected in this book, each chapter having been written by a different member of the multidisciplinary team, namely physicians, nurses, psychologists, research staff and representatives from each of the remedial therapy groups. In addition to the diversity of authors and therefore content, there is also variety in terms of style of presentation of each chapter. The latter serves to enhance the pleasure of reading this book and to hold one's attention, and includes literature reviews, summaries of national clinical guidelines, descriptions

of services and novel research projects carried out by the authors.

This book has short chapters that are clearly set out and are eminently readable. There are numerous tables and figures illustrating the text and each chapter is well referenced and most have summary points or a concluding paragraph. There is a strong emphasis on the supporting evidence base for interventions throughout this book, although the medical guidelines are incomplete and a little out of date which reflects the rapid developments that continue to be made in the relatively new subspecialty field of stroke care.



In addition to the management of patients with acute stroke, this book also covers the issues surrounding rehabilitation and some common complications of stroke such as aphasia, dysphagia, cognitive impairment and mood disturbance.

This book will appeal to all health-care professionals working on a stroke unit as an introductory text. It provides the evidence available to support the formation of stroke units and gives clear guidance on how to set up and support an interdisciplinary training programme, and for this alone, I would recommend this book.

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### Clinical Governance in a Changing NHS

Edited by M Lugon, J Secker-Walker  
RSM Press 2005  
Price £22.95. Pp 218  
ISBN 1853156655

This book has a dry-sounding title but is a very good read. The NHS is in a never-ending state of flux, but is generally moving in the right direction as a result of some of the recent changes. When implementing change, it is important to consider quality and safety issues that may arise, and the clinical governance structures that all health-care organizations should have are an ideal means for this.

There are 13 chapters covering almost the whole of the recent NHS reform programme from chronic disease management, through publishing of outcomes by individual surgeon to medical education and training. There are insights into medical management, infection control, self regulation, patient and public involvement and out-of-hours care. What makes this book so interesting is that it takes all of these areas of change and examines them in the context of clinical governance. This is a relatively unusual approach, although it should of course be the norm.

My personal favourite is an excellent chapter on resisting cultural change by James Reason. For anyone who is interested in publication of outcomes by individual surgeon (the raw data are already there for

all consultants in all specialties, all we need is someone to analyse and publish) the chapter by Tom Treasure and Steve Gallivan is a must. I agree with their general thrust that naming surgeons may damage patients and surgeons in the long term, particularly while it still seems to come as a shock to many that 50% of surgeons have outcomes worse than average.

I would thoroughly recommend this book to those seeking to implement change, and also to those who seek to oppose it by means other than the usual shroud waving.

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### Mental Health Law: A Practical Guide

Bsanat K Puri, Robert A Brown, Heather J KcKee, Ian H Treasaden  
Hodder Arnold 2005  
Price £19.99. Pp 254  
ISBN 0 340 88503 3

Mental health law and practice are both complex and the interaction between them even more so. 'Legalese' and 'Medicalese' abound and translating either into everyday English is hard.

This book aims to be 'a comprehensive introduction' to mental health law and a 'long-term resource manual' for a variety of mental health practitioners. Does it succeed in this aim? Like the curate's egg, it is good in parts.

There is a good whistle-stop tour of the history of mental health legislation which sets the scene well, and reasonable descriptions of the Mental Health Act (MHA), the Children Act and the Human Rights Act.

By far the best bits of the book, however, are the two 'forensic' chapters dealing with mentally disordered offenders and the assessment of risk and violence. These are crisp and clear in their logical, intelligent and ordered approach and contain excellent schemas for the production of court reports and formal risk assessments.

Other chapters lack this clarity and at times rely on extensive quotes (e.g. from the MHA or General Medical Council guidance) without adequately analysing or clarifying the content. Coverage of individual topics is at times sketchy and even (the chapter on old age) tokenistic.

There is also much repetition, particularly around issues of mental capacity. This may be partly needed to help each chapter 'stand alone' but makes the book overall seem disjointed, as though lacking an over-arching editorial eye.

Overall, apart from the 'forensic' chapters, I was quite disappointed with this book. There is clearly a need for such a work and I think there is potential for this book to develop into a must-have in the future. I sincerely hope that these issues are ironed out for the second edition.

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