

Textbook of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care (2nd edn)

Edited by Eduardo Bruera, Irene Higginson, Charles F von Gunten, Tatsuya Morita
CRC Press 2016
Price £99.00. Pp 1322
ISBN 9781498772839

This second edition of the *Textbook of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care* aspires to be the 'go-to' reference textbook for palliative care students anywhere in the world, and it does not disappoint.

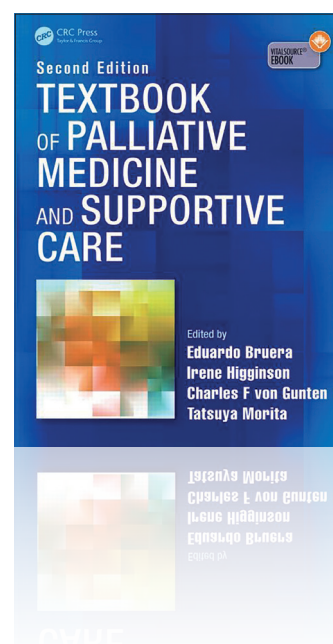
For a book of over 1000 pages it is surprisingly readable, and will be accessible to a global audience regardless of differing local health-care models. It covers the breadth of palliative and supportive care, with a robust evidence-based, multiprofessional approach and authoritative, international authorship. It draws largely on experience from North America, Japan and western Europe, highlighting the context of developing countries. New chapters on supportive

care reflect the emerging direction of the specialty in certain countries.

More experienced practitioners may also find the book useful for teaching, although this emphasizes breadth at the expense of depth at times. Practitioners seeking management options in specific situations are likely to need to supplement reading with additional sources, and the chapters are referenced comprehensively.

The book sets out clearly the scope of palliative medicine, and would be a good starting point for the trainee studying for postgraduate exams. Those likely to take advantage of the readability of the text rather than to keep it on the shelf for reference may find the significant investment required good value for money. It will be a useful addition to any health-care library, giving an overview of the entire field in one volume.

Suzanne Kite, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds



Handbook of Clinical Teaching

Edited by Somnath Mookherjee, Ellen M Cosgrove
Springer 2016
Price £39.99. Pp 256
ISBN 978 3 319 33191 1

This is an easy to read and well-structured handbook which makes good use of tables and diagrams. It does what it says in the introduction looking at the basics of clinical teaching, common teaching contexts and then various teaching scenarios.

It is aimed at the new teacher who has finished his/her specialty residency training. Chapters 2–10 are essential reading and give a number of tips and techniques to improve teaching, e.g. three simple questions: where is my learner now, how does this stage inform our approach, how can I help my learner move forward? Topics covered include the rich information provided by peer observation of teaching, PowerPoint tips (this should be obligatory reading for all conference speakers) and 'chalk talk', e.g. use of a whiteboard rather than a presentation. The book encourages teachers to be reflective and, regardless of seniority, these chapters are an excellent review of how to teach and improve one's practice.

The remaining chapters depend on the context in which the reader is teaching. Most settings are applicable to the UK although a few are American only. The handbook style makes it easy to carry around and use as a quick reference. The major drawback is its cost, selling for £37.99 (Kindle) and £39.99 (paperback). At a lower price, I would recommend this to all health-care professionals who teach medical students and trainees.

Helen Goodyear, Health Education England (West Midlands), Birmingham

The Unofficial Guide to Practical Skills

Emily Hotton, Zeshan Qureshi
Zeshan Qureshi 2014
Price £24.99. Pp 212
ISBN 978 0 95714 996 0

This book is very clearly set out with a clear contents page and skills subdivided by topic. It covers a breadth of skills – from basic ones such as taking a pulse to more complex skills such as chest drain insertion. It would be applicable to medical students from their first year right up until and post-graduation.

Each topic has a mark scheme for the examiner making it useful for those preparing for OSCEs. The guide

encourages self-directed learning, and the 'guideline' section directs students to relevant guidelines. More guideline sections, e.g. in the blood glucose measurement topic, would be beneficial, particularly if these reflected medical practice in the UK rather than referring to World Health Organization guidelines.

The general advice and background to each topic are useful for students in clinical years where application of clinical skills is more relevant. The guide contains ample diagrams and high quality photographs which provide further clarification, particularly fundoscopy and otoscopy images. The guide also contains a useful Q&A section which highlights key questions which may be asked of candidates by examiners, followed by an additional questions section which provides a useful impetus for further self-directed learning.

This comprehensive guide covers most skills expected of undergraduate students plus a few more complex procedures that may be relevant to foundation training. This well laid-out, easy to navigate guide would be useful for any medical student embarking on the clinical part of their degree.
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