

## Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine (5th edn)

**Edited by Nathan I Cherny, Marie T Fallon, Stein Kaasa, Russell K Portenoy, David C Currow**  
**Oxford University Press 2017**  
**Price £88.00. Pp 1280**  
**ISBN 9780198810254**

The paperback publication of this definitive palliative medicine textbook is very welcome, increasing access to a much wider audience. This edition retains a strong international and multi-professional perspective, and has a revised and extended scope in response to an increasing evidence base, and emerging technologies and advances in practice.

Specialists and trainees in palliative medicine and palliative care are most likely to find this book a worthy investment to underpin clinical practice, teaching and preparations for examinations, but it will be a useful reference for anyone caring for people with chronic, progressive conditions, and for those towards the last phase of life.

The editors and authors are international leaders in their fields, covering the breadth of palliative care. Pain and analgesia have particularly thorough coverage, as does the management of the person with cancer. Each edition gives more attention to the palliative care of people with non-malignant disease, in keeping with growing palliative care experience and expertise in caring for a wider population.

The introduction reflects on 'the challenges of continuity and change'. These include providing best possible palliative care globally, and navigating the increasing uncertainties when more treatments are available towards the end of life.

This book retains its place as the definitive textbook in palliative medicine, with relevance throughout the world, and now at a more accessible price.

*Suzanne Kite, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds*



## Management of Atopic Dermatitis: Methods and Challenges

**Edited by Erica Fortson, Steven R Feldman, Lindsay C Strowd**  
**Springer 2017**  
**Price £108.00. Pp 210**  
**ISBN 978 3 319 64803 3**

More of a complete overview of atopic dermatitis than just a look at the management, this book is a thorough review of the condition. Not only do the authors meet their aims of informing the reader about assessing a patient with atopic dermatitis and the subsequent treatment strategies, but the underlying pathology and epidemiology is also included.

The book is written in an easily readable style, with each section well written, comprehensive and fully referenced. This does lead to a somewhat repetitive style when reading cover to cover, but as a reference text, allows information to be easily accessible. Chapters range from the pathophysiology, the economic burden, the measurement, treatment and future treatments of atopic dermatitis.

Clear tables and diagrams are used in conjunction with medical photography,

although this is somewhat sparse for a text in dermatology.

This text is niche, and would only be pertinent to a subsection of physicians or those interested in dermatology. The price of £108 may not make it an essential text for every bookshelf.

*Stephen Mounsey, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Salford*

## Viral Infections in Children, Volume II

**Edited by Robin J Green**  
**Springer 2017**  
**Price £112.00. Pp 222**  
**ISBN 978 3 319 54092 4**

This hardback book is relevant to all health-care professionals who look after unwell children. Seven chapters cover viral infections of the upper and lower respiratory tract, CNS, cardiac, gastrointestinal tract and liver as well as viral exanthems. The cardiac chapter has helpful detailed information for clinicians to recognize myocarditis and pericarditis which, although rarely seen, are vital to diagnose.

The text is well laid out and its headings make sections interesting and easy to read. Illustrations include useful diagrams on

sinus development, electrocardiograms and photographs of exanthems. Higher quality pictures of eczema herpeticum and molluscum contagiosum would be welcome.

While providing a wealth of helpful information, there are misleading aspects with inclusion of lateral neck X-rays in stridor which are no longer recommended. The book aims for global coverage and does not distinguish between developing and developed countries. While the World Health Organization pneumonia guidelines have undoubtedly saved lives, in developed countries the commonest cause of cough, difficulty in breathing and tachypnoea in infants is bronchiolitis, not pneumonia. Viral testing for bronchiolitis is useful for epidemiological purposes but only helps management if cohorting patients. Viral throat swabs are used for sampling and nasopharyngeal aspiration is reserved for when *Bordetella pertussis* is suspected.

The book would be a welcome addition for clinicians wishing to be knowledgeable about viral infections in children while noting the provisos detailed above.

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