

Physician Communication: Connecting with Patients, Peers and the Public

Terry L Schraeder
Oxford University Press 2019
Price £22.99. Pp 206
ISBN 978 0 19 088244 0

Written by an American doctor and former medical journalist and reporter, this book is a little bit unusual in that it not only focuses on doctor–patient (carer) communication, but also considers the much wider range of media in which today’s doctors are required to communicate.

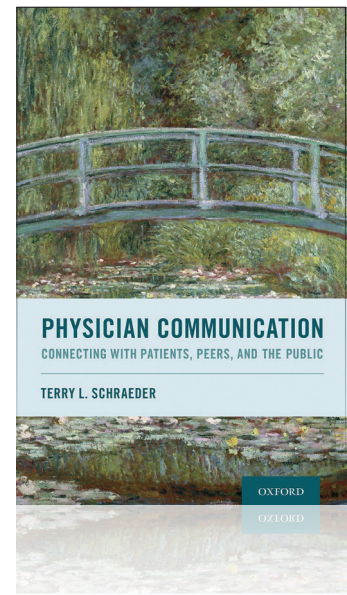
The book is divided into four main sections: face-to-face communication; digital communication; public speaking and presentation skills, and traditional media. I think that the way it looks at different contexts and situations in which doctors might find themselves is one of the strengths of the book.

The book is short and easy to read yet covers many important topics. The sections

on social and digital media and public speaking would probably be particularly useful for many doctors who have not grown up as ‘digital natives’ or are a bit fearful of public speaking.

If you are looking for a book which goes through different communication models and theories, then this book is not the one. However, if you are a medical student, doctor in training, or a more experienced doctor having to communicate in new settings, then this book has many useful hints and tips, is practical and contains many anecdotes, quotes and stories about the ‘do’s and don’ts’ in various situations. For doctors working outside the USA, many of the examples and legal requirements will not be appropriate, but there are some useful tips and suggestions for improving communication skills in the wider sense.

Judy McKimm, Swansea University, Swansea



The Emergency Medicine Trauma Handbook

Edited by Alex Koyfman, Brit Long
Cambridge University Press 2019
Price £57.99. Pp 358
ISBN 978 1108450287

I have to congratulate the editors on putting together a really useful book on major trauma.

It is what it says in the title: a handbook. The 350 pages are split in the main into anatomical regions. Additionally there are sections on children, old age, pregnancy, procedural sedation and analgesia and commonly missed traumatic injuries. It is packed with tables of pearls, drug doses, pitfalls and key points.

The book is up to date and contemporary – apnoeic oxygenation and the limitations of cricoid pressure feature in the airway section, and resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) gets a mention.

All contributors hail from the United States of America. While some practice is different it is interesting to note an alternative approach – left anterolateral thoracotomy for example and a front of

neck access technique omitting the use of a gum elastic bougie.

For those lifelong learners seeking a quick trauma refresher, this text fits the bill.

Recommended.

Gavin Lloyd, Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter

Oxford Desk Reference: Critical Care (2nd edn)

Edited by Carl Waldmann, Andrew Rhodes, Neil Soni, Jonathan Handy
Oxford University Press 2019
Price £80.00. Pp 704
ISBN 978 0 198723561

The *Oxford Desk Reference: Critical Care* provides a concise, up-to-date overview of a full range of essential topics in intensive care. In this latest edition (with its digital media accompanying book), the extensive team of international authors have completely rewritten and updated the content. Numerous new chapters have also been added (including topics such as paediatric and maternal critical care), as have some very useful self-assessment questions that support the Fellow of Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and European Diploma in

Intensive Care Medicine revision – a super way to test one’s understanding of the subject matter.

While the book contains an incredible amount of information, and the text is relatively small and condensed, it is still remarkably easy to comprehend and digest because of the clear layout and use of interspersed tables and diagrams. The arrangement of the 35 main chapters is also somewhat novel, with the content navigating through the broad headings of therapy techniques, monitoring, drugs, and disorders and pathologies, yet it works effectively and within each chapter, numerous topics are each succinctly covered in two to three pages of text.

This is certainly not a book that one would find easy to read from cover to cover, but the design helps the reader to dip in and out as and when required. As such it does perfectly what it says on the tin – acts as a reference text.

Described by the authors as being a ‘popular, practical and easy-to-use guide...’ – while I can not comment on the former, I can reassure the reader that latter two are certainly true.

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