

Chronic Illness Care: Principles and Practice

**Edited by Timothy P Daaleman,
Margaret R Helton
Springer 2018
Price £96.50. Pp 575
ISBN 978 3 319 71811 8**

This book is a comprehensive guide to managing chronic conditions and improving the health status and quality of life with a coordinated and comprehensive holistic response to chronic illness.

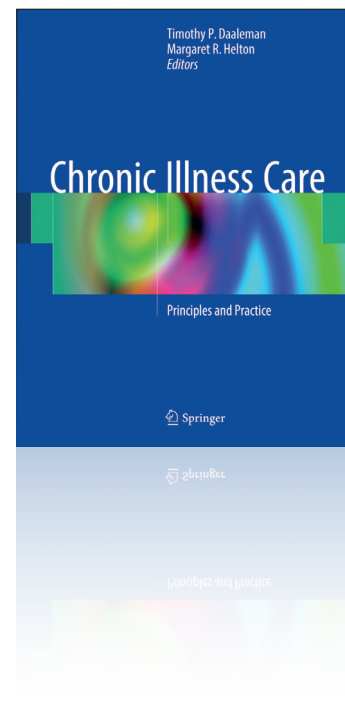
Tailored primarily to an American audience and system, it extensively covers the organizational frameworks, areas around health policy, and social and environmental determinants. Despite this, many sections of the book are very relevant to health professionals in Europe and across the world.

It provides an in-depth understanding of the many contributing socioeconomic and environmental determinants, explores relevant research findings and provides

an overview of conceptual and theoretical frameworks, concluding with suggestions regarding future direction of travel. The valuable contribution of unpaid carers, and the chapters on older people, adults with intellectual and developmental disability and vulnerable populations, address some of the more difficult challenges in this field.

The book highlights the unequal access to health services and provision, especially for vulnerable groups and individuals from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, that have existed for many years. Many Americans are unable to purchase medical insurance cover and therefore may not receive any kind of treatment or care. It strongly advocates the need for policy changes that will help all citizens access good quality care.

*Iqbal Singh, Acorn Health Centre, Accrington/
Rizwan Ahmed, Royal Bolton Hospital, Bolton*



Oh's Intensive Care Manual (8th edn)

**Edited by Andrew D Bersten,
Jonathan Handy
Elsevier 2018
Price £80.99. Pp 1480
ISBN 978 0 7020 7221 5**

This is considered by many interested in intensive care medicine to be the classic, 'must have' textbook. It is enormous, but it is quite simply splendid. Split into 17 parts and 115 chapters, each is overflowing with useful explanations and facts that will benefit your everyday clinical practice.

Returning in its 8th edition some 40 years after Teik Oh first released it, the editors and authors (predominantly from Australia and the UK) have updated each existing chapter, and added some very relevant others addressing emerging issues in intensive care medicine.

Each chapter is extremely clearly laid out and signposted, with well-defined tables and diagrams that can be referred to independently without interrupting the flow of the text, and every topic has annotated references. Given its size, the 'manual' is certainly not a book that many could casually read through from cover to cover,

but it does provide a superb, up-to-date reference text on just about any subject one could expect to encounter on an intensive care unit. So yes, this is a classic, must have textbook. If you have the patience to read it, you will certainly not be disappointed.

Edward Gilbert-Kawai, University College London Hospital, London

The Neurologic Diagnosis: A Practical Bedside Approach (2nd edn)

**Jack N Alpert
Springer 2019
Price £56.09. Pp 563
ISBN 978 3 319 95950 4**

Such has been the rapid development of neurology as a specialist and subspecialist discipline in the past few decades that textbooks have increasingly become multi-authored. Although such texts have the advantage of the breadth of expertise, they risk being stylistically uneven. Hence a single author text attempting to encompass neurology is of potential interest.

Jack N Alpert from Houston brings to the subject a wealth of experience and expertise, garnered over many years of practise. Although there are chapters

devoted to history taking (rightly deemed to be the primary data in the diagnostic process) and examination, this is essentially a case-based approach to the subject. Brief case vignettes are (generally) followed by a few key questions, then answers, diagnosis and explanatory comments. Working through these, after having read the didactic material, is likely to hone clinical problem-solving skills. The emphasis on 'ten neuroanatomic diagnoses' ('only one of ten anatomic sites is required for practical purposes') may be helpful for those who struggle with the clinical localization necessary for meaningful neurological differential diagnosis.

This is a tried and trusted approach to medical education, and this book can be recommended to those in training (it might also be profitably consulted by more senior clinicians wishing to continue or maintain their neurological education). Some caveats: the emphasis is understandably north American. It is a long book, more likely to be dipped into rather than read cover to cover, and perused at leisure rather than in the heat of clinical assessment.

AJ Lerner, Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Liverpool