Book Review: Pain Management in Nursing Practice


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Book Reviews

Resilient Health Care – Volume 2: The Resilience of Everyday Clinical Work

This second volume applies important emergent thinking about resilience engineering to a variety of situations that instantly connect with the reader to allow deeper understanding of the insights gained from real application across a variety of healthcare activities. Although at first glance, it may not seem immediately applicable to perioperative settings, the various chapters all have resonance with safety conscious practitioners. Some chapters are more focused on recognisable clinical activities such as, Handovers (Ch.2), Medicine Management (Ch.7), Blood Transfusions (Ch.8) and various chapters that focus on ‘the Study of Everyday Clinical Work’.

However, other chapters keep the readers interest in terms of more sensational topics such as riots (Ch.1) and blizzards (Ch.5) which further aids the understanding and application of this concept of resilience.

In summary, Resilient Health Care, Vol 2 ‘the Resilience of Everyday Clinical Work’ takes the basic concepts of resilient healthcare outlined in the first book and analytically explores them in everyday healthcare settings, to enable the reader to understand both the importance and the function of resilience and to learn from a wide variety of authors what strategies they have employed in everyday clinical work to ensure that the healthcare that we deliver is safe and effective.

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Pain Management in Nursing Practice

Understanding, assessing and management of pain are an important aspect of the nurse’s role in caring for patients in a variety of settings. This book provides a useful introduction to understanding different types of pain experienced by patients in different environments and circumstances. Importantly it provides the nurse with a good knowledge base from which to assess and manage pain in conjunction with the multidisciplinary team and the patient. The authors own extensive experience and knowledge of the assessment and management of pain is drawn together with other expert sources to provide the reader with both the breadth and depth of information on the topic. Undergraduate nursing students will find that it provides a useful resource in their understanding and learning about pain as it affects patients in their care in different clinical placement experiences. More experienced, registered nurses will, however, find it a useful resource to consolidate their knowledge of pain and in specialist areas of care.

Early on in the book, the reader is introduced to some interesting historical background information about our understanding of pain. I enjoy historical literature and would have been content had the author continued with this theme, but I also found that the book led me easily into other chapters outlining and explaining clearly the often complex physiology of pain. Importantly, these physiological processes are considered in the context of the psychosocial factors which impact on the individual. While the book highlights aspects of acute pain and pharmacological management, recognition is given to the many individuals who live within society with chronic pain arising from a variety of conditions. There is a particularly good chapter on the assessment of pain where a variety of pain assessment tools are discussed in terms of their application with different patient groups and different types of pain. These are further developed in chapters on pain management in different settings such as in cancer and palliative care. Each chapter provides a summary of contents and references to useful websites and other relevant resources. A very useful appendix on the WHO analgesia ladder and various medications is included. Overall a very easily read book which I believe should be included on the reading list for all undergraduate nursing curricula.

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