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Book Review:

Ward, D. (2016)

Microbiology and infection prevention for nursing students, Sage Publications, London

Microbiology is a vast and ever expanding complex field. Hardly a week goes by without one or other infection appearing in the news. While advances in diagnosis and treatment have led to remarkable improvements in the consequences of infectious diseases worldwide, newly identified and older known pathogens continue to emerge and affect the population and to pose significant problems for patients across the healthcare sector. Patients undergoing surgical procedure are at particular risk. If healthcare practitioners are to be successful in combatting infection and maintaining infection control standards they need a solid knowledge base and understanding of microbiology and how infections spread.

This short and easy to read book while aimed primarily at nursing students will give all healthcare practitioners a very good overview the principles of infection control linking with microbial transmission and reproduction.

The book opens with background information highlighting relevant organisations and legislation in regard to infections and infection control. The impact of infections and effects of infections on healthcare organisations are considered and a short case study invites the reader to reflect on the impact of infection on the individual. Throughout each chapter similar short case studies help to provide a basis for reflective learning.

As the reader progresses through each chapter they will gain knowledge of the chain of infection and important bacterial, fungal, parasitical and viral infections. Each chapter allows for a self-test of knowledge through the use of short MCQ examinations with answers. Useful websites and further links are also provided

Individual roles and responsibilities and the remit of various organisation in infection control are discussed. Standard infection control measures such as hand washing and, appropriate use of personal protective equipment surgical decontamination and maintaining a sterile field are core discussed along with decontamination and disposal of waste. Overall this book will provide a quick and easy guide to infection control and prevention and I would particularly recommended it to students at the early years of their career in healthcare practice.

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