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'Comprehensive Pediatric Emergency Care.' Author: Barbara Aehlert. Mosby JEMS. 2006. RRP AUD$65.00

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BOOK REVIEW
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'Comprehensive Pediatric Emergency Care.'
Barbara Aehlert. Mosby, Elsevier. 2005
ISBN 0-323-03241-9 (RRP: $AUD65.00)

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Comprehensive Pediatric Emergency Care is a US publication by the highly successful author Barbara Aehlert. The publication carries the approval of the American Safety and Health Institute and is designed for all health care professionals who are preparing for the American Safety and Health Institute Emergency Pediatric Program. The text is designed to prepare learners for the US Emergency Pediatric Program. It consists of 16 chapters each with clear 'major' and 'minor' subject headings to assist the reader in locating the information they are after with ease. These are accompanied with a pre and post test, and case studies embedded in each chapter that allows conceptual learning when used with the information provided and in a lead up to each topic specific chapter quiz. The index includes:

- Chapter 1 Chain of Survival and Emergency Medical Services for Children
- Chapter 2 Growth and Development
- Chapter 3 Patient Assessment
- Chapter 4 Respiratory Distress and Respiratory Failure
- Chapter 5 Respiratory Interventions
- Chapter 6 Cardiovascular Emergencies
- Chapter 7 Cardiovascular Interventions
- Chapter 8 Fluids and Medications
- Chapter 9 Trauma and Burns
- Chapter 10 Selected Childhood Illnesses (Fever, Infectious Disorders, Neurological Disorders, Gastrointestinal Disorders, Endocrine Disorders, Hematologic Disorders, Psychiatric Disorders)
- Chapter 11 Environmental Emergencies
- Chapter 12 Toxicological Emergencies
- Chapter 13 Child Maltreatment
- Chapter 14 Death of an Infant or Child
- Chapter 15 Children with Special Healthcare Needs
- Chapter 16 Resuscitation of the Newly Born

Other key features of the text and its chapters include:

- 'Peds Pearl' boxes providing important facts and information.
- Colour pictures relevant to each area.
- Information presented in tables to show comparisons.
- 'Drug Pearl' boxes providing information on medication's used in the treatment of relevant conditions and any mode of action relevant.
- Assessment and management algorithms providing flow charts through out the publication as well as in a large pocket size fold out card insert.

This is a very useful publication for anyone who has a role in paediatric care as it provides in depth information which is relevant to a variety of emergency health professionals, including paramedics, nurses, and to some extent, doctors. Users outside of the United States will need to consider local governing standards when implementing some of the algorithms, as there are some variations to the equivalent Australian guidelines, such as those provided by the Australian Resuscitation Council. Nevertheless, this is an excellent resource for health professionals in the emergency care of sick and injured children.

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