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## Cases in Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine. Daniel Ellis and Matthew Hooper

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## BOOK REVIEW

### *Cases in Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine*

**Daniel Ellis and Matthew Hooper**

Churchill Livingstone, Australia, 2010.

ISBN: 9780729538848 (Paperback) \$AU71.95 (RRP including GST)

Reviewed by

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This text is presented as an educational companion for those studying and practicing prehospital aeromedical retrieval. It is a 286 page book with a clear framework designed to provide easy access to the three sections, nine appendices, case key and glossary contained within its covers. Each case study and medical intervention is illustrated with relevant images and photographs to enable the reader to visualise their plan of management.

The first author is Dr Daniel Ellis, who is a UK based physician with associations as consultant in emergency medicine and intensive care medicine at Lister hospital, an emeritus consultant of aeromedical retrieval for HEMS London, and as medical incident officer of the London ambulance service and East of England ambulance service. The second author, Associate Professor Matthew Hooper, is the director of MedSTAR retrieval service of South Australia, a senior staff specialist (ICU) at Flinders medical centre of Adelaide, Associate Professor at the Anton Breinl Centre at James Cook University in Townsville, and squadron leader with the RAAF reserve in Australia. Each author has a lengthy and diverse range of experiences and qualifications which are demonstrated clearly within the layout and applicability of this book to prehospital clinicians.

The book is useful as a text to be read from start to finish, but really makes its mark when used as a collection of scenarios to challenge the learner or experienced prehospital clinician. These scenarios are of a specific format that is written in a clear, structured and concise manner. The three sections provide specific areas of learning opportunity from the “prehospital”, “retrieval” or “service development and special circumstance” themes offered. A comprehensive range of trauma and medical scenarios, requirements of medical retrieval, CBR incidents, mass casualty incidents, military based cases, and a plethora of other specialist circumstances are provided

The appendices are particularly relevant to prehospital care as reference material, containing CBR and HAZMAT plans, (M)ETHANE, SIEVE and SORT Triage systems, suggested equipment lists for retrieval operations, and “how to” prompts for specific clinical interventions. The Key to Cases section of the appendices provides dot point outlines of each scenario which may be used by the educator to demonstrate learning objectives to students.

Each of the scenarios steers away, refreshingly, from giving the reader a prescriptive regime

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of management in order to “get it right” and is instead, more in step with the reality of prehospital care generally. The reader is presented with a systematic approach to management which offers pros and cons of specific therapies that may be employed, as well as ongoing vital signs and other factors affecting management including resource availability, weather and options for destination hospitals, all of which add to the “reality” of prehospital patient management. Also, whilst the authors are both physicians, the text is very much aligned to the intensive care level of paramedic practice, and so should find a wide audience in this field.

I was unable to clearly identify a negative aspect of this text, as it is written with applicability to medicine and prehospital care with the Australian and UK theatres at the forefront. As each country’s operations present parallels and similarities, and as it is free of the sometimes complicated relationships and specificities that exist within the US systems, I would highly recommend this to anyone working within the aeromedical or intensive care prehospital emergency care field either the UK or Australia as a valuable reference or review text. For those students not yet practicing, or those just starting out in the field, this may prove a bit challenging, but still ultimately useful for developing a holistic approach to patient, resource and scene management.

### **Publication Details**

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