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BOOK REVIEW

Manual of Clinical Paramedic Procedures
Pete Gregory and Ian Mursell
Wiley-Blackwell, UK, 2010.
ISBN: 978-1-4051-6355-2 (Paperback) $AUD 59.95 (RRP including GST)

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Manual of Clinical Paramedic Procedures is a text book of clinical skills written for paramedics, by paramedics (with academic experience), and backed by scientific evidence. It is suited to both student and practicing paramedics and should be on the shelf in universities where courses are provided.

Throughout its 19 chapters and 378 pages, there are excellent drawings and photographs which suggest the authors promote the old adage of *a picture says a thousand words*. Manual of Clinical Paramedic Procedures is an all encompassing procedure book promoting good Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare conditions for both patient and paramedic safety.

Each chapter begins with a *definitions* section, followed by a *step-wise approach* to the skill presented, some basic anatomy (where needed) and further reading and references to supporting evidence which is given throughout. I particularly like the *key points*, *chapter key points* and the *think bubble* areas, all of which encourage the reader to recall important points and stretch basic thoughts into complex conceptualising.

There are a plethora of devices targeting prehospital providers, very few of which are actually tested in the field, thus a book such as this is useful as a quick reference check and the authors are not shy in stating that no evidence exists for certain skills, strongly recommending further research. Similarly, throughout the text there are some useful suggestions for extrapolating evidence from other disciplines such as emergency medicine, anaesthesia and so on.

Manual of Clinical Paramedic Procedures does not profess to be a complete paramedic text book covering all aspects of medical care (physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology etc.) so additional reading should always be encouraged. It aims to provide a text book of day –to-day clinical skills for paramedics, in a step-by-step format, based on evidence…. and it does just that. It is suited to volunteer and developing paramedics, as well as seasoned paramedics, particularly for reference to challenging skills that may be performed less frequently.

The book covers a broad range of skills, but sadly, does not provide reference material for training of these procedures - such as how often and within what context (part task trainers,

full body simulation, standardised patient, or real clinical exposure) training should occur. Evidence[1-11] suggests that skills will decline when; practice is not frequent, the clinical context is not adequate, or the manikins (or teachers) are not appropriately matched to the skill. A feature discussion at the 2005 international Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations (CoSTR) conference highlighted such evidence, showing that healthcare providers' ALS skills and knowledge decline after just six weeks![12]

In summary, this is a useful book on procedural tasks suited to all levels of clinical care, most certainly student/trainee paramedics. Like all books, it lacks dynamic movement and motion, which is particularly important to learning procedure skills and should be considered. As students and practicing paramedics are more technical savvy today, an electronic version adaptable to DVD, PDA or smart phone would also be ideal.

Priced at $59.95 AUD, Manual of Clinical Paramedic Procedures is available through Wiley-Blackwell Australia, and good medical book stores. This text is well worth the purchase.

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