



Pediatric Critical Care, by Margaret Parker and Richard Carlson. Published by Elsevier, Maryland Heights, MO. 391 pages, \$93.28, 2013. ISBN: 978-1455770762

P*ediatric Critical Care* is a comprehensive overview of relevant topics in pediatric critical care. Oriented more to the clinician than researcher, it nevertheless covers the important research studies that guide daily critical care practice. It is a very readable text, with individual chapters including information accessible to the novice practitioner of critical care medicine and enough detail to be useful to more experienced clinicians. The volume covers topics over a wide range of medical ICU conditions ranging from asthma and acute respiratory failure to sepsis to common endocrine issues in the PICU. Liver disease is not separately considered, although the chapter on bleeding disorders discusses many important considerations in liver dysfunction. Additionally, the review includes chapters on practice-related topics including quality improvement and medical ethics in the PICU. Although most chapters are geared toward medical critical care management, the book also includes a chapter on pediatric postoperative cardiac care. This chapter nicely covers general postoperative complications as well as postoperative issues and management guided by type of lesion. Other pediatric surgical ICU topics are not covered in this volume. The format of the book enhances its readability.

BNF for Children 2013–2014, by Pharmaceutical Press. Published by Pharmaceutical Press, Gurnee, IL. 880 pages, \$63.00, 2013. ISBN: 978-0857110879

The *BNF for Children 2013–2014* is an admirable bedside resource for prescribers, medical trainees, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and dentists. It makes available relevant drug information in an easily navigated and easily read format.

This book is organized into chapters by drugs that affect a particular organ or organ system. The beginning of each chapter states the classified hierarchy of the therapeutic drug category in which individual drug monographs are found. This serves as a rapid reference for medications, indication, and dosing. Each monograph offers succinct drug information including drug precautions and contraindications, drug use in hepatic and renal impairment, pregnancy, and breastfeeding, as well as side effects and administration information. Additionally, this reference provides medication costs as well as active and inactive ingredients in the available dosage forms.

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The table of contents, which is different from similar review volumes, includes abstracts to each section, providing a ready reference for readers. In addition, many chapters include tables and figures that nicely organize salient points. In particular, the chapters on neurocritical care topics, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), seizures, and encephalitis, include easy reference tables on goal-directed care in TBI, first- and second-line agents based on seizure types in status epilepticus, and symptoms and diagnoses in encephalitis. Equally useful are table references for causes and treatment of hypertension in the chapters on hypertension and management of acute kidney injury. Other chapters included useful figures such as the postoperative cardiac care chapter figure that provides an example of a surgical handoff. Elements of this figure could be useful across surgical transfers for all kinds of postsurgical patients being admitted to the ICU. Overall, the collection of review articles contained in the *Pediatric Critical Care* edition provides a good critical care reference for both new and seasoned practitioners.

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Aside from drug monographs, this book includes a number of other useful references at the beginning and end of the book. There is a section of the book that is dedicated to general medication guidance which includes the following: prescription writing, prescribing in renal and hepatic impairment, and prescribing in palliative care and dental practice. In this edition, the palliative care section has been reorganized and updated with tables featuring the equivalent doses of opioid analgesics and buprenorphine and fentanyl patch conversions to morphine equivalents. An emergency treatment of poisoning section includes an updated therapeutic management of acetaminophen (paracetamol) poisoning in the 2013–2014 edition. The appendices feature an alphabetized list of drug interactions, an easy-to-read enteral formula and a nutritional supplement component chart, and a section dedicated to IV infusions for neonatal intensive care.

Other unique qualities of this reference include the extensive list of drug manufacturers with contact information as well as the nurse prescriber and dental practitioner formulary. The book does an excellent job of providing links to additional electronic resources to supplement the printed information.

There are limitations with this drug information reference. The appendix reference featuring the preparation of neonatal infusions is expressed using a weight-based calculation for drug preparation that results in a constant rate per hour (mL/hr)

instead of standard concentrations as recommended by the United States–based Institute for Safe Medication Practices. The book may not have utility as a drug information reference outside the United Kingdom. The national formulary, drug prices, and dosage forms presented in this book are specific to the United Kingdom and may not be generalizable to other countries. Additionally, the 2013–2014 edition of *BNF for Children* does not feature any new section or chapters in this edition, nor are the drug prices updated in this print edition.

The book is a well-designed, uniquely organized bedside resource for the practicing clinician. It is sure to enhance day-to-day practice of clinicians providing care to children.

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