



Book Reviews

Fundamental Skills and Concepts in Patient Care, Seventh Edition

by Barbara K. Timby

Lippincott publication

Reviewed by: Wendy Agard, RN

Cypress Creek High School Health Sciences teacher, Orlando, Florida

A practical nursing textbook. Contents include nursing history, contemporary nursing issues and concepts, and nursing skills.

I am most impressed with this book for its organization, layout, and photos. Skills sheets have a blue border, making them easy to locate/identify. Chapter summaries are comprehensive, yet concise. The progression of topics is logical. I took a special interest in Chapter 5, the chapter on stress, because it is so relevant to 21st century America. I was also pleased to see photos of artificial eyes; a first for me!

I would like to see this book include more photos of male nurses in action. I would also like to see the publishers take advantage of modern technology and upgrade to color photos (which are easier to interpret) instead of black and white. The Mongolian spots, for example, are of little significance in a black and white photo. Also, because this textbook could easily become an excellent resource for nurses and students, a hard back cover would be desirable. The bed bath section needs updating. Most hospitals use a modified version of the old-fashioned bed bath, so additional information about diluting and utilizing no-rinse soaps and the use of multiple washcloths per bath would be useful. It would also be practical to include information about shampooing--or not shampooing--Black hair. In the section on death and dying, I would like to see information about a dying patient's last 24 hours. Valuable information would include the complications of mouth-breathing; the fact that research has shown us that glycerin is actually a drying (instead of moisturizing) substance; the fact that many patients can hear and understand long after they no longer communicate; and that their focus becomes "conservation of energy;" hence the rapid decline in responsiveness. Lastly, I would encourage the publishers to include a yearly insert that includes helpful website addresses.

I asked a couple of my high school students (eleventh graders) to review the book. Here are their comments:

"I think this book would be a good resource for a nursing student. The book covers many different aspects of nursing. I think the book is also good because it is easy to read. The book also does a good job of using tables, diagrams, and charts for explaining concepts. The book also shows pictures of real people to show practices (skills). So, if I was a nursing students, I would want to use this book to help me study."

" In my opinion, this book is self-explanatory. The illustrations and the wording used could not have gotten any simpler. The illustrations of the techniques performed are of great help. You could easily understand what they are trying to interpret through the pictures. I like the fact that after every explanation of the nursing skills, the book gives you a suggested action and a reason for the action. In my opinion, it is easier to understand what you are doing if you understand why you are doing it. It makes it simple to execute the activity when you combine the illustration with what you are reading.

"At the end of each activity, the book tells you everything that you have to document. It gives you examples of what the documentation should look like and the information that it must contain. The nursing care plan is an activity that gives a situation and walks you through the steps that should be taken...

"This book truly gives a detailed explanation of the fundamental skills and concepts in patient care."

In general, my students and I are impressed with the book and can see where we could use it to enhance learning experiences.

Fundamental Skills and Concepts in Patient Care, Seventh Edition

By Barbara K. Timby

Lippincott publication

Reviewed by: Angela D. Collins
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I felt the textbook was very comprehensive with the data it was intended to provide. The skills were well organized and sufficiently explained. The step by step outlines with illustrations included I think are very beneficial. (especially for us 'visual' learners) However, I do feel that some of the illustrations/pictures were considerably outdated. In Health Care, where things are constantly changing, this might lead some to be suspect of the accuracy of the provided data. Some examples of the ones that concerned me are pages 272, 337, and 481. There was also a chart on page 11 that graphed trends in LPN/LVN enrollments from the year 1984 to 1995. Could this have not been updated since this edition was published in 2001? My only other concern for the textbook was that all illustrations and pictures were in black and white. I feel that a great deal of detail can be lost by not using colored photos. The selected readings provided at the

end of each chapter is nice and allows students to do more research on specific items.

The Study guide that accompanies the text is very nice. It covers the information well and also requires the students to use some critical thinking skills. And, you and I both know how important that skill can be in Healthcare. The skills checklist in this guide are well laid out and easily understood. It is also nice that the answers are available for the students as that they may assess their own knowledge retention, thus enabling them to focus on the areas they were weakest in.

The instructor's manual seems adequate for this set.

Each chapter is outlined briefly informing the instructor of the chapter highlights and also provided is the learning objectives for that chapter. Chapter resources and activities that the instructor might use are also provided. The 3.5 disk accompanies it is a great attachment. Who wouldn't like a testbank provided for them? What a time saver!

Thank you for the opportunity to review this set. Overall, I think it is a very good set. As I mentioned before, my concerns lean more toward presentation than content. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Contemporary Practical/Vocational Nursing

By Corrine R. Kurzen

Lippincott publication

Reviewed by: Patricia Shimer, RN

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This book is an extraordinary tool for any nurse entering the medical field. It encompasses not only the needs of the patient but also the needs of the nurse. As I read the first chapter, my first thoughts were; where was this book when I was in school? I not only liked the contents of the book, but the format was superb.

The first chapter, " Adjusting to Student Life," provides the student with a basis for understanding the life of a student nurse. Actually taking care of another human being can be very stressful, and when you factor in the learning, studying, and practicing of being a student the stress mounts. Many times in the students life there seems no time for yourself, and this chapter stresses the need to take care of your needs in order to make yourself a better nurse. This chapter gives the student all the elements they need to be a successful student.

The chapter on communication skills covered all the areas in which the nurse will have to practice and obtain expertise in. Communication in a medical

setting can mean the success or failure of the nurse. If the nurse is unable or unwilling to communicate effectively with the patient and/or members of the health team, the patient's care suffers. It is definitely a skill to learn how to communicate effectively and this chapter provides the basis for developing those skills.

The unit on "Understanding Your Profession" brings the student from the history of nursing to present day practices. As a student nurse, I was taught to focus on your patient and learning those skills necessary to properly care for your patient. There was little to no instruction on the health care system as a whole. I was pleasantly surprised to see the entire system from types of facilities, to the financial aspect, insurance providers, government agencies, and accreditations. It was many years into my nursing career before I learned the importance of JCAHO and how it affected my hospital.

Unit three "Preparing for Successful Practice" pulls it all together. Ethics is a major concern in the health care industry. At our facility we have an ethics committee that reviews those cases where an ethical decision must be made. Because incidents can happen quickly and you must be prepared to make the right decision, this chapter covered many areas where one might have to make the right ethical decision. Leadership, management, and communication

go hand in hand and they have blended very well in this chapter.

You now have your degree and license and as unit four states, you are now ready to move forward. This unit provides the new nurse with all the information they need to successfully start and succeed in the nursing field.

No matter how successful or satisfied we are in our profession, there will be periods of dissatisfaction. I was pleased to see the section on burnout and stress relief.

As far as the format of the book, one of my favorite areas was the "Think About It" sections. Learning how to be a critical thinker takes skill and practice. These sections help the student to practice those skills. The soft green highlights were pleasing to the eye and the main ideas in the margins reinforced the paragraphs. I particularly enjoyed the stories and personal experiences because they brought things down to a personal level and broke up the text.

Recently on our unit we had some communication issues with our nursing assistants, and I was telling my nurse manager how great your book was and how we could use your book to help in solving some of our issues. I plan on bringing the book in to share with her because of the "assess yourself" section.

This book was a delight for a "seasoned" nurse of twenty-four years to read. I actually enjoyed the history section because there were things there I was not aware of. The book covered areas that it has taken me twenty-four years to learn and every nurse should have one of these for a handbook.

STEDMAN'S CONCISE Medical Dictionary for the health professions, (2001).
ISBN: 0-7817-3021-0. Chief Editor: John H. Dirckx, MD Baltimore, MD, USA,
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

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Stedman's medical dictionary and accompanying CD-ROM are perfect tools for medical workers, students, and teachers. The print volume is equipped with a standard type dictionary with a extra cross-reference and visual images. The accompanying CD-ROM is a friendly user program for people of different level skills in computing.

Most of medical dictionaries on the market are very much like using a general English dictionary; giving each word the meaning letter by letter as spelled out. It's much easier to find the hundreds of medical abbreviations, acronyms and symbols in this volume. This dictionary also provide cross-references for words

that have the same meaning. The common English term or Synonyms are printed in color, making it very easy to look up definitions in the same color.

The content of the dictionary includes an illustration index to provide a quick way to look up the image. Each word accompanied by the color symbol of one (1) surrounded by a blue color square means the illustrations or images are provided. Any page number preceded by letter "A" means the image can be found in the first color insert, the 32 page anatomical atlas. The letter "B" is used after page number to indicate that you will find the image in second color set. The "APP" indicates the images are in the appendices.

As mentioned earlier, this dictionary also includes a CD- ROM to be installed on a computer drive. The installation process is uncomplicated if you follow the four (4) step instruction process or follow on screen prompts. System requirements are for Windows 95 or higher and Macintosh OS system 7.6.1 or higher. Hard drive space needed is 25 MB and at least 16 bit-color display. A sound card is helpful. Stedman's Concise offer online help and technical support if you have problem installing or using the Electronic Medical Dictionary.

After installing the CD-ROM, you will find the dictionary in alphabetical order. In the file folders are visual information of 15 human body's part: Abdominal, Brachial, Chest, Ear, Elbow, Foot, Head, Knee, Liver, Pelvis, Shoulder, Skeleton, Skull, Urinary, and Wrist. By using the indication arrows it will take you to pictures

of posterior, anterior, medial, and lateral. You can retrieve each picture within 10-20 seconds.

Stedman's Concise Medical Dictionary for Health Profession is just what the doctor order for all level of Health professionals. Teachers and students will benefit by use in classroom and laboratory.