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A Peer Reviewed International Journal for the Advancement of Clinical Skills
- *'docendo ac discendo' - 'by teaching and learning'*



In this issue:

The ophthalmic surgical simulator

Managing trainee doctors experiencing difficulty
Educational impact of Direct Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS)

Clinical education on the move
Examination of the patient with a brainstem lesion

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The International Journal of Clinical Skills looks forward to contributing positively towards the training of all members of the healthcare profession.

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Foreword

A Message from the Chief Medical Officer for England, United Kingdom



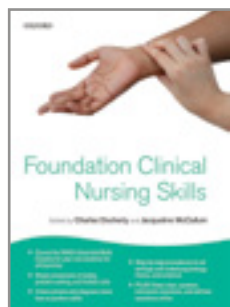
The systematic and safe acquisition of high quality clinical skills is an essential part of modern medical training as highlighted in my Annual Report published in March 2009. I wish the International Journal of Clinical Skills every success in highlighting research and knowledge in this important area.

Sir Liam Donaldson
The Chief Medical Officer for England

Book Reviews:

Foundation Clinical Nursing Skills

Clinical Nursing Skills - Core and Advanced



Foundation Clinical Nursing Skills

Edited by Charles Docherty & Jacqueline McCallum
Oxford University Press 2009
ISBN 978-0-19-953445-6

The aim of this book is to provide a comprehensive clinical skill resource for first year pre-registration nurse students. The skills included are pertinent to all branches (adult, child, learning disability & mental health).

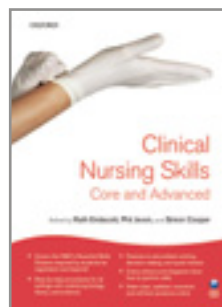
In the introduction the authors address the concepts of evidence-based practice and holistic care. The 12 chapters are in fact structured around Roper, Logan and Tierney's (2000) activities of living. The authors also recommend students using an anatomy and physiology text in conjunction with this book. Each chapter begins with learning outcomes and reference to physiology underlying the skill, nursing theory and holistic care. Each skill is clearly identified by the use of coloured text boxes with individual steps acknowledged and accompanied by rationale. The text is supported by many colour photographs and drawings. Each chapter includes scenarios where the skill is explored in relation to practical application for each branch of nursing. Answers to these scenarios are found at the end of the chapter along with reference lists, further reading and websites.

The book is accompanied by an Online Resource Centre and at the end of each chapter the reader is reminded to access this. This resource includes a range of activities from quizzes, skill checklists, and videos to an interactive glossary and hyperlinked bibliography. If lecturers adopt this book they will have access to electronic versions of the visual aids and tips for teaching.

The material presented is relevant to first year nurse students. The content is in keeping with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Essential Skills Clusters. The language is easy to understand and the layout of each chapter follows a consistent approach with easily identified sub-sections. It is extremely valuable to have clear colour photographs to illustrate the text.

The online resource is a valuable adjunct to the text. It is easy to navigate between pages and instructions for use are clear. However students need to be mindful that checklists recommended for OSCE revision may not necessarily be identical to those used by individual schools of nursing and learning the principles underpinning any skill is essential.

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Clinical Nursing Skills - Core and Advanced

Edited by Ruth Endacott, Phil Jevon & Simon Cooper
Oxford University Press 2009
ISBN 978-0-19-923783-8

The aim of this book is to develop further clinical skills learnt in year one of the pre-registration nursing programme and to introduce pertinent skills for registration such as venepuncture and cannulation.

Students (and / or lecturers) that have adopted the Foundation Clinical Nursing Skills textbook will find the style of the book similar and this familiarity will be helpful when utilising this book. Whilst the authors do not specifically say that the book is aimed at adult nurses, the content is appropriate for this branch of nursing. However, mental health nurses could benefit from using this book as a reference in relation to clients with physical health problems.

The book is divided into chapters on fundamental skills for patient care such as communication, admission and discharge plus medicine administration with subsequent chapters following a body systems approach. At the end of each chapter a step-to-step guide to performing a skill is given along with opportunities for reflection on practice and relating chapter content to patient scenarios. This format achieves the authors' aims that no skill should be performed in isolation and that a holistic approach should be adopted by the student when learning a skill. The content is mapped against the Nursing and Midwifery Council Essential Skills Clusters.

Where appropriate the chapters include a highlighted section 'recognising patient deterioration'. This is a worthy addition to this book as it is in keeping with the NICE (2007) guidelines – 'Acutely ill patients in hospital'.

Again this book is accompanied by an Online Resource Centre. This resource again includes a range of activities. Lecturers adopting this book will have access to electronic versions of the visual aids and tips for teaching.

The challenge with any skills textbook is to keep up to date with changes in research, policy and equipment. The authors of both books acknowledge this and propose to do this via the online resource centre. Both books are valuable additions to the many clinical skills books recently published.

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Clinical Skills Lab (CSL)



The Clinical Skills Lab database will comprise information on over 200 clinical skills, broadly separated into:

- History taking skills
- Communication skills
- Clinical examination/interpretation skills
- Practical skills

Not only will this valuable resource provide material to students as a learning tool and revision aid, for example, OSCEs, it will also offer educational materials for teachers from all disciplines, allowing some standardisation of practice. The Clinical Skills community will also be encouraged to contribute, making this database interactive.

CSL is a free not for profit database. Visit www.ijocs.org for access