

cision-making constructs. The scoring is explained, followed by a set of “do’s and don’t’s” for taking and mastering this exam style.

The book includes 17 chapters, which present the various content areas of respiratory care. Each chapter includes a rationale for including that chapter’s content (based on the NBRC exam matrix), comprehensive review of the material, exam hints, an extensive chapter bibliography, and test questions with answer keys that present the rationale for both the correct and incorrect responses. Review sections in the chapters are coded so that the reader can relate the content in that section to the NBRC exam matrix and to the level of difficulty to expect on the exam. The text, which includes exam hints and rationales throughout, does not claim to be a comprehensive review of the field of respiratory care, but rather an exam-specific review. Be sure to use this text in conjunction with a review text designed for the Certified Respiratory Therapist exam, since the NBRC exams emphasize content-specific information for the level of credential sought.

The book also includes a CD-ROM-based pre-test, post-test, and 10 clinical simulation scenarios. The exams mirror the NBRC exams in content emphasis, question style, and question difficulty. Patient scenarios of the NBRC clinical simulation exam are also matched on the CD-ROM-based clinical simulation exam. The exam is scored with an assessment of the candidate’s weaknesses and relates those weaknesses to the specific content areas. The CD-ROM will help students to assess themselves and to identify weak areas and also help them to gain familiarity with the computer-based testing style of the NBRC.

The text is designed for graduates of respiratory care programs that prepare students at the advanced respiratory therapist level. The book is not a comprehensive review of the field of respiratory care and thus cannot be generalized to broader populations. University educators and hospital respiratory care education personnel may find the book helpful in assuring curricular coverage of content at an appropriate level of understanding to assist their charges in preparing for their practice as respiratory therapists.

The book progresses logically through patient assessment, therapeutics, mechanical ventilation, home care, and special procedures. There is ample use of—but not over-reliance on—tables and easily understood

figures, which are used to summarize information presented. Each chapter is in outline form, which helps the reader find and review information in an efficient manner. The text is readable and at an appropriate level for the target audience. The content is well referenced, citing appropriate recent discipline-related texts. The index is comprehensive and specific enough to help the reader find general areas or exact content. The overall organization and up-to-date content helped the author achieve the goal of presenting an advanced registry exam guide.

The 17 chapters cover the scope of material required to master the advanced level exam. Understanding this content and presentation requires prior knowledge, as the text builds on an entry-level knowledge base. The chapters present accurate and up-to-date information and I found no errors. The graphs and tables enhance understanding of the concepts presented. Chapter subjects include: patient assessment, infection control, blood gas analysis and monitoring, pulmonary function testing, advanced cardiopulmonary monitoring, oxygen and medical gas therapy, humidity and aerosol therapy, pharmacology, bronchopulmonary hygiene therapy, cardiac monitoring and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, airway management, suctioning the airway, intermittent positive-pressure breathing, mechanical ventilation of the adult, mechanical ventilation of the neonate, home care and pulmonary rehabilitation, and special procedures. The coverage is thorough, the material is accurate, and the presentation is in a no-nonsense format that gets directly to the required information.

The CD-ROM is user-friendly and well organized. The pre-test is intended to be printed out. The answer key provides a rationale for each response, right and wrong, and gives an idea of where to focus study efforts. The post-tests for both the written and the clinical simulation exam are well written, and the presentation mirrors the new NBRC computerized format. The questions are at an appropriate level for these exams and help focus additional study on identified weaknesses. The CD-ROM is easy to install and ran smoothly without error for me. The format can familiarize the student with computer-based testing, which could eliminate some stress on exam day. I found the CD-ROM testing a great addition to this review text.

Overall, the book is an excellent source for students, graduates, and educators asso-

ciated with advanced respiratory care exam preparation. The CD-ROM could be used in hospital department settings to challenge the staff or as a form of mandatory documentation of knowledge maintenance. The book’s organization, exam hints, tables, figures, illustrations, practice questions, response rationales, and computerized practice exams contribute to the attainment of the stated goals. The information is up to date and expertly tailored to the NBRC exam matrix. The only frustrating feature was the limited number of review questions associated with each chapter. Although chapter questions are weighted to mirror the NBRC advanced respiratory therapist exam, and the reader is expected to use an entry-level exam review prior to using this text, the chapters are rich with information and many important questions are left unasked. That concern goes beyond the author’s intent, yet as an educator I thought it a shame not to include good questions that would further challenge the reader for the sake of the exam matrix. After all, the practice of respiratory care goes well beyond that which we can be tested for, regardless of exam format.

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Law & Ethics for Clinicians. Jacquelyn K Hall BSN MEd JD. Amarillo, Texas: Jack-hal Books. 2002. Soft cover, 392 pages, \$34.95.

Jacquelyn Hall’s book on law and ethics is a solid attempt at dealing comprehensively with the interactions between law and ethics in the clinical world. Though there is no way to write a book that can be all things to all people, and a lawyer may sense certain shortcomings in this book, it is a laudable attempt to set out clearly and precisely the legal issues and ethical conflicts that occur in everyday patient care.

Law & Ethics for Clinicians is adequately organized, with a comprehensive table of contents. An individual looking for information on a given legal topic would find it quickly. The amount and depth of the information varies from topic to topic, but the book’s general organizational scheme is helpful.

The book aims at getting clinicians to “lay down at last the tomes of ethics and

law," because "good patient care is lawful and right." From that lofty preface the author then lays out her theories of law and ethics and explains in compact, tightly-written prose the general concepts of the law.

This book is a good one for clinicians who want a "to the point" reference on law and ethics, but it is not as comprehensive as some other texts on this topic, and some of the more difficult areas of the law are oversimplified.

Ms Hall tells readers that the core principle of law and ethics is "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This recodification of the "golden rule" is referenced countless times in the book as the "dountoother" (do-unto-others) principle. As an author and lecturer, I have frequently given the same advice as Ms Hall, which, distilled to its essence, is: "people don't sue people they like." Though her explication of the ethical principles is sound and makes for good reading, it is but one example of oversimplification of legal issues in this text.

Moreover, not all the principles in the book are well explained. In one section Ms Hall writes that "more insurance means more lawsuits." Her explanation of this is convoluted and difficult to follow. It also does not accurately state reality. Having liability insurance doesn't make a person any more prone to lawsuits than having health insurance makes a person prone to pneumonia. Yet these few minor imperfections in a book that was obviously a labor of love should not cause a clinician to pass it by.

Key concepts in the book are well explained. Issues of strict liability and federal laws relating to health care are adequately detailed. Of course, the problem with any such book is that new cases and new statutes are created almost daily, and the laws differ radically from state to state. For this reason, if for no other, most clinicians won't simply lay down their legal texts, nor will they stop consulting with legal counsel. But a smart clinician, armed with this book, could adequately inform herself on a wide variety of issues, and use the book to determine when either to do additional research or to seek professional legal counsel.

Though much of my critical review of this book focuses on the legal insights it offers, the chief value of this book may lie more in its ethical insights for the busy clinician. Ethical values are difficult to codify and even more difficult to discuss, yet this author does a fine job of bringing into focus subjects such as the physician-patient rela-

tionship and the ethics of clinician education. In a chapter titled "Be Free" the author explores the subjects of autonomy, cognitive theory, egoism, and existentialism in concise form. Her writing on these complex issues demonstrates that she understands clinicians and their needs.

No book on ethics and law can be all things to all people, but this one is a fine attempt, and one can only hope that more editions will be forthcoming.

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Writing and Defending Your Expert Report: The Step-by-Step Guide with Models. Steven Babitsky Esq and James J Mangraviti Jr Esq. Falmouth, Massachusetts: Seak. 2002. Hard cover, 404 pages, \$99.95.

This is an outstanding book. For anyone who is now or is even contemplating preparing and writing expert reports, this is required reading. I have been preparing expert reports for nearly 30 years, yet I learned much from reading and rereading this valuable reference work, which pointed out many errors that I have, unfortunately, been making over the years. It also reinforced many of the appropriate things I do but that I learned in the school of hard knocks. Fortunately, not all lawyers are as malevolent and devious as those featured in the sample cross-examinations in this book, but you can never predict when you might come up against one of those attorneys. Following the guidelines in this book will spare you some potentially very uncomfortable sessions in deposition or in the witness chair.

Writing and Defending Your Expert Report is well organized, comprising 16 chapters and 2 appendixes. The Chapter 1 introduction is especially well written, providing easy-to-understand basics of preparing an expert report. Chapters 2 and 3 provide an extensive legal background about expert reports, with many case law citations. Although primarily meant more for attorneys, these chapters also provide a useful background that allows the expert to understand the basis for many of the book's recommendations. Chapters 4–8 provide the basic how-to-do-it of writing an expert report. Chapters 9–11 provide many suggestions for reinforcing the credibility and reliability of your reports and opinions. Chapters 13–16 point out how one can avoid getting into difficulties while on the witness

stand and also help in dealing with an aggressive cross-examining attorney if, despite reading this book carefully, one still makes one or more of the many potential errors. Appendix A provides additional general advice from other authors and Messieurs Babitsky and Mangraviti. Appendix B provides 12 sample reports, along with focused critiques.

The authors emphatically succeed in their aim of preparing the reader to produce an expert report that cannot be effectively challenged by an opposition expert or attorney. It is clear that they have had great experience in reading and critiquing numerous expert reports. Their positions are clearly stated, logically sound, and supported by legal precedent. In a book of this nature there is room for differences of opinion and/or emphasis, but I found nothing that was inaccurate. Despite involving both legal and scientific technical concepts, this book is quite readable and understandable.

The cover of the book is business-like and conservative, but of good quality. The paper and type are also of good quality and quite readable. I found only a few typographical errors. There are no illustrations. The case law references are appropriate and current and the index is adequate.

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Evidence-Based Herbal Medicine. Michael Rotblatt MD PharmD and Irwin Ziment MD. Philadelphia: Hanley & Belfus. 2002. Soft cover, 464 pages, \$35.

Somewhere around 80% of the world's population uses herbal plant medicines because they have no access to or money for orthodox western therapies. Increasingly in the western world there has, perhaps for philosophical reasons, been a swing back towards herbal therapies. Despite industrialization, about 50% of our current therapies are derived from plants, and we are belatedly rediscovering a whole range of potential herbal therapies. The difficulty with this rediscovery is that there is very little evidence to support the use of many plant medicines in their proposed clinical indications.

Increasingly doctors are encountering patients who wish to take herbal alternatives or who are taking them in combination with orthodox medicines; it is for this reason that